



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

May 2023

Mark's Remarks

Our brains are wired to infer connections in life. That's how God made us and it's how we make sense of events going on in the world around us. We have a strong tendency to look for cause and effect.

Maybe we walk to work without our umbrella and it rained hard all afternoon. The forgotten umbrella and the rainy afternoon are coincidental and completely unrelated. Their only connection is that they happened on the same day. But then we start to wonder if it rained all afternoon *because* we forgot our umbrella. Each of the events happened around the same time and both have something to do with rain, so we easily connect them together. It's not logical, but our imaginations make a cause-and-effect connection.

I point this out because a number of members have approached me, asking about any connection between three simultaneous events which transpired recently:

1. Our congregation held a straw vote regarding the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN).
2. News outlets told of UMC congregations voting to leave our denomination.
3. We took down the red flame on the front wall of the Sanctuary.

The timing of these three events is merely coincidental, like an unforeseen rainfall on a day when we have forgotten our umbrella. The occurrence of all these events at about the same time, however, has given opportunity to make all kinds of imaginative cause-and-effect assumptions to connect the dots and tie any two (or all three) events together.

Even though it's neither accurate nor logical, such conjecture seems natural to me. About the time we held a straw vote to determine the impact of eighteen months of RMN conversation, the news media reported numerous stories of churches voting to disaffiliate from our United Methodist denomination. As we hear news of other churches leaving the denomination, our United Methodist Church symbol of the flame has been removed from our sanctuary cross. Let me now deliver some news of my own to alleviate the unnecessary anxiety and anger resulting from repeated misinformation circulating among our members. First, we took a straw poll in March because it was time for our eighteen-month benchmark. It had nothing to do with denominational politics or leaving the UMC. It had everything to do with clarifying our call to share the love of Christ. Second, several United Methodist Churches across the United States are indeed leaving our denomination, but not to join the Reconciling Ministries



Network. They are voting to leave because they are no longer willing to support the historic shared mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church. Our faithful members and leaders of SUMC have no interest or intent to leave the denomination of which we have always been a part. Third, our decision to take down the double red flames from the sanctuary was not to make room for the rainbow flame of the Reconciling Ministries logo. And the United Methodist flames were not removed because we are no longer aligned with the United Methodist Church. We'll continue to be United Methodist, and the faded fabric logo was retired from the front wall at the start of Lent because they were extremely dusty and covered in cobwebs. That's the truth of what really happened, and why.

I'll see you in church,
Mark

MISSION OUTREACH

Selah Naches Food Bank

"More peanut butter, please", was the request from Director Tammie at the food bank. Within just two weeks, our food bank basket collected 24 jars of peanut butter and more than 24 boxed and canned meals. The staff at the food bank was thrilled! There is still more to be delivered. With the diminishing inventories and the increasing number of area residents needing food, the food bank struggles a bit. Just this week, a post on Selah Neighbors Network asked about the hours of the food bank and where free food was available. Our generous congregation always steps up with its many donations to our Little Food Pantry and the Selah Naches Food Bank. Whatever you can give, know that your contribution of any kind means food for someone in the community. In May, the staff are requesting more peanut butter and boxed meals plus flour and sugar. Any non-perishable food item is always gratefully accepted by the hard workers at the food bank.



May is Peanut Butter and Boxed Meals Month, again, plus Flour and Sugar, too



Rod's House

Selah UMC now has four groups who are making meals for the Rod's House young people, which number about 50 each weekday. Burritos, sloppy joes, enchiladas, and chili are some of the first menus. Once the planning is done and then the prep and delivery, each group has agreed that all went smoothly and that cooking was a fun way to get together and do good. Just knowing that making one meal for the

young people who live on the street or "couch surf" can make a difference is rewarding. One meal may seem small, but it is one meal, maybe the only food that day, that a young person might not have had. Several have been involved in cooking and delivering and can tell you how to become a Rod's House Meal Partner. You will be glad you did. **This picture has the list of needs requested by the Rod's House staff:**



Camp Hope

The last week in April, Chuck and his cooks barbecued our famous chicken for the residents at Camp Hope and Noah's Ark. It was a treat of chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, vegetables, cookies and milk. We know how delicious these cooked chickens and beans are, and now the homeless in the Yakima and Wapato camps know. There were lots of finger-licking and happy smiles from everyone. Thank you to Chuck and the cooks and everyone who signed up and contributed food for the dinner, and to those who prepped the side dishes, delivered and served. An all-church effort, for sure! It was a break for the Wesley UMC planners and cooks as well as a chance for us to feel the gratitude of those who enjoyed this delicious dinner.

SUMC Scholarship Application Update

There were no scholarship applications received this year by the April 15 deadline for submission, therefore, The Bud Hall Memorial Scholarship Team has reached the consensus that no scholarships will be awarded in 2023.

SUMC Scholarship Team



WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Worship Team for Selah UMC met at 6:00 in the evening on April 12th for their meeting to allow greater participation for those who work during the daytimes. The team reviewed worship services since their last meeting.

There were over 200 people who attended our Holy Week and Easter services: 55 for Palm Sunday, 30 for Maundy Thursday, 20 for Good Friday, 36 for SonRise Service and 68 for the 10:30 Easter service. Most of the people who came to the SonRise service stayed for the breakfast that followed. All of the services were very meaningful. Thanks to those who made all of them possible.

We noted that there were two persons in wheelchairs at the Easter service. It was decided that we need another short pew so there is room to accommodate family members of folks in wheelchairs. There is another short pew in the Chancel.

May 7 is Communion Sunday, and there will be a potluck and dessert auction following the service. Kevin and Elaine Dow will be gone on both May 14 and 21. The Worship Team is looking for someone to lead the singing on those two Sundays. May 14 is also Mother's Day, and because the potluck has been moved to the 7th, mothers will be able to leave after worship to spend time with their families that day.

May 20 will be the Installation Service for Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth. The service will be livestreamed, and all members, both laity and clergy, are invited to watch as we formally celebrate the bishop's assignment to our area. Watch for information on how to sign in to the service online.

The calendar is really weird this year with Heritage Sunday, remembering John Wesley's "heart strangely warmed" experience, and Ascension Sunday both falling on May 21. Pentecost falls on May 28, and everyone is urged to wear red to church on that day. Trinity Sunday is always the Sunday after Pentecost, and this year it is also Peace with Justice Sunday. The next Worship Team meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10th at 6:00 PM in the Simonson Room, and anyone who has ideas for making worship more meaningful, is urged to attend.

Kevin Dow



Quilt of Valor

A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."



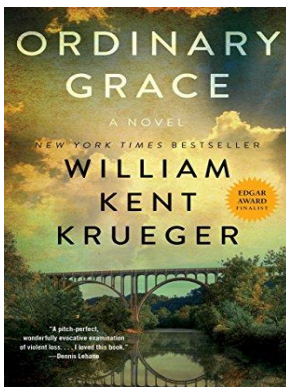
Who is eligible for a QOV?

Any service member or living veteran who served in one of the following branches: Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Members of the activated National Guard and activated or active duty-special work (ADSW) reservists are included. The Army National Guard and Air Force National Guard are components of the Army and Air Force respectively. Merchant Marines activated from 1941 to 1945. Additionally, anyone who serves at the Dover Mortuary Facility is eligible.

- Served during declared war, conflicts, police actions, peacekeeping missions, and counter terrorism operations and/or times of peace.
- Service during, but not necessarily limited to, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Beirut, Granada, Bosnia, the Cold War, Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Iraq, Afghanistan, anti-terrorism operations, and terrorism attacks against Armed Forces personnel is included.
- Only veterans with an Honorable or General Discharge status are eligible.
- QOVF does not award QOVs posthumously.

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, we would like to present a quilt to you, or a friend or family member that have served our country. You don't need to be a member of the Selah United Methodist Church, or a regular attendee to receive this honor. There will be a small ceremony after church and a potluck to follow. If the nominee prefers to receive this honor in a private ceremony, will can honor that request also.

If you have questions, or would like to nominate a service member, please call Tereica Kaumheimer @ 509-930-0318.



BOOK BUNCH

The Book Bunch May novel selection is *Ordinary Grace* (2013) by William Kent Krueger. This novel has received several awards, including winner of the 2014 Edgar Award for best novel. The story, told from the perspective of a Methodist minister's son, revolves around an unexpected family tragedy. Learn more about this compelling novel here:

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/william-kent-krueger/ordinary-grace-krueger/>

This is a Yakima Valley Libraries book club selection. Therefore, multiple copies are available to borrow. The Bunch will meet via Zoom (church meetings link) at 7:00 pm, the second and fourth Tuesdays in May. The group takes time for fellowship and laughter, as well as for thoughtful discussions. Selected novels feature Christian-inspired themes that spark conversations about how God works in each of our lives. *Everyone* is welcome and encouraged to participate as able.

Please contact Lee Hamilton for further information.



Methodism 101

Splitting, dividing, reforming...Methodism has long history of evolving

The Methodist Church was founded in America in 1784 because of change. When the Revolutionary War ended, all connections with England were severed including with the Church of England. The Methodist Movement, which formed under the umbrella of the Church of England, was formalized into the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

In 1828, discontent over church governance resulted in a division leading to the Methodist Protestant Church.

In 1844, differing views over slavery had the southern churches breaking away to form the Methodist Episcopal Church South in response to growing opposition to ownership of slaves.

African Americans formed their own Methodist denominations in response to their treatment as second-class members in the Methodist Episcopal Church. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in 1816. Another black Methodist community, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was formed in 1820.

In 1870, the Methodist Episcopal Church South formed a separate denomination for its black members, called the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (now the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.)

The United Brethren in Christ was established in 1800 and modeled on the Methodist organization. In 1803, Die Evangelische Germeinschaft (The Evangelical Association) was formed by German immigrants in Pennsylvania. These two denominations merged in 1946 to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Methodist Protestant Church merged to form the Methodist Church.

And in 1968, the Methodist Church united with the Evangelical United Brethren Church to become the United Methodist Church we know today.

The Methodist movement continues to evolve as we do our best to follow and live out the teachings of Jesus Christ. Who knows what the next evolution will hold?

THANK YOU'S

Thanks to those who prepared the breakfast Easter morning. The food was wonderful and it was such a nice opportunity to visit between services.

Becky Johnson

Thank you to all who helped cook chicken on April 24 for Camp Hope and Noah Ark's residents as well as those who donated food and helped prepare the side dishes and transported and served the dinner. We could not have done it without the help of many hands.

Chuck Natland.



Selah United Women in Faith



I haven't talked about our two National Mission Institutions in Washington that United Women in Faith support. This month I would like to give an overview of Tacoma Community House. Tacoma Community House has been providing services since 1910. They promote Social Justice and offer equity-advancing programs through Immigration, Education, Employment, Advocacy, and Housing. They annually provide 3500 program services to 3200 individuals from over 110 countries. Tacoma Community House mission is to create opportunities for immigrants and other community members in the Puget Sound region through comprehensive services focused on self-sufficiency, inclusion, and advocacy.

Immigration services provided - Us Citizenship Classes, DACA Information, Family Based Immigration (A foreign citizen seeking to live permanently in the US must be sponsored by a immediate family member who is at least 21 yrs. old and is either a US citizen or a green card holder). They provide Education Services such as Adult Basic Education Classes, English Language Acquisition, GED.; Employment Services, weekly Friday workshops, and Job Posting . Victim Advocacy - offer free services and support to those who have been harmed by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and many other crimes.

The Reach Center: The Reach Center is a one stop center for young people between ages 16 - 24. they help with youth achieve educational goals, support with college applications and admissions, free educational workshops and help youth find a home and employment to become self-sufficient as well as offer a Violence Prevention Program. If you are ever in Tacoma, stop by Tacoma Community House and ask for a tour.

Our next meeting is May 16th via Zoom at 7: 00 PM. The program is Prayer and Self-Denial. ions in Washington that United Women in Faith support. this month I would like to give an overview of Tacoma Community House.

Tressa Cummings, Selah UWF President



Potluck/Dessert Auction

On May 7 after our worship service, there will be our potluck and dessert auction. Although our potlucks normally are the second Sunday of the month, in May the second Sunday is Mother's Day and we want our mothers to be able to spend the day with family. This year proceeds from the auction will be divided between our campership fund and the Afternoon Circle.



TO BE OR NOT TO BE A RECONCILING CHURCH

Regarding the recent straw vote, there were 55 ballots cast; the final tally being 44 yes votes, 6 no, and 5 undecided votes. The yes votes represent 80% of the total votes cast and, although significant, we feel that a higher percentage can be achieved thru continued dialogue, both written (think Newsletter) and verbal. So the effort to determine whether we're "to be or not to be" will continue thru Labor Day and, at that time, we'll take another straw vote.

For those who are UNDECIDED, there's still time to ask questions and, if you haven't already done so, to become part of the conversation. For those who voted NO, perhaps it's a matter of misunderstanding what's involved or simply not having all the facts; being a part of the conversation, asking questions, and keeping an open mind are all important before making a final decision. There is a notebook binder in the Simonson Room that has all previous newsletter articles having to do with our becoming a reconciling church; if you haven't read all of the articles, stop by and take a look, they may answer some of your questions.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank everyone who took the time cast a ballot and, in some cases, to add a comment. It's wonderful to see our church this engaged!

Ron

From Kevin: The other day I had the opportunity to look over the straw ballots that were exploring to see if Selah UMC is ready to become a "Reconciling Congregation". I was impressed that of those who returned their ballots, eighty percent (80%) were in favor. I also noted that only fifty-five returned their ballots, still pretty good for a Sunday where between 65 and 70 were present in worship. There are a couple of concerns that stood out to me, and I offered to comment upon them for *The Messenger*.

One response commented that the church shouldn't declare that homosexuality isn't a sin. I wondered where that response came from. Nothing in the statement promoted by the Reconciling Ministry statement talks about sin. It lists several groups/categories of people who often feel they are not welcome in churches. The Reconciling Church statement tries to assure everyone that they are welcome in our church, and that we don't discriminate.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23, KJV) That means we are all sinners. If we denied access to our church to those who sin, the church would be empty. We are charged with the responsibility of reaching out to everyone to let them know of the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. During Holy Week Pastor Mark read these words of Jesus: "I give you a new commandment. That you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34, (NRSV). We aren't in the business of defining sin, and only accepting the sinless. We are about loving others as Christ loved us. Paul says: "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8, NRSV)



There are churches where the church board votes to decide if a person is acceptable for membership in that church. That is not our way! We invite all who would come to join us in the quest to be better than we currently are. In the next *Messenger* I will talk about my other concern. A hint: *A vote for becoming a Reconciling Congregation is NOT a vote to leave the United Methodist denomination.*

S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY MAY

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 1 Chr. 14-15; Ps. 132; Mt. 18 | 17. 1 Ki. 2; 1 Chr. 29; Ps. 95; 2 Th. 1 |
| 2. 1 Chr. 16; Ps. 106; Mt. 19 | 18. 1 Ki. 3; 2 Chr. 1; Ps. 78; 2 Th. 2 |
| 3. 2 Sam. 7; 1 Chr. 17; Ps. 2; Mt. 20 | 19. 1 Ki. 4-5; 2 Chr. 2; Ps. 101; 2 Th. |
| 4. 2 Sam. 8-9; 1 Chr. 18-19; Mt. 21 | 20. 1 Ki. 6; 2 Chr. 3; Ps. 97; Rom. 1 |
| 5. 2 Sam. 10; 1 Chr. 20; Ps. 20; Mt. 22 | 21. 1 Ki. 7; 2 Chr. 4; Ps. 98; Rom. 2 |
| 6. 2 Sam. 11-12; Ps. 51; Mt. 23 | 22. 1 Ki. 8; 2 Chr. 5; Ps. 99; Rom. 3 |
| 7. 2 Sam. 13-14; Mt. 24 | 23. 2 Chr. 6-7; Ps. 135; Rom. 4 |
| 8. 2 Sam. 15-16; Ps. 32; Mt. 25 | 24. 1 Ki. 9; 2 Chr. 8; Ps. 136; Rom. 5 |
| 9. 2 Sam. 17; Ps. 71; Mt. 26 | 25. 1 Ki. 10-11; 2 Chr. 9; Rom. 6 |
| 10. 2 Sam. 18; Ps. 56; Mt. 27 | 26. Prov. 1-3; Rom. 7 |
| 11. 2 Sam. 19-20; Ps. 55; Mt. 28 | 27. Prov. 4-6; Rom. 8 |
| 12. 2 Sam. 21-23; 1 Th. 1 | 28. Prov. 7-9; Rom. 9 |
| 13. 2 Sam. 24; 1 Chr. 21; Ps. 30; 1 Th. 2 | 29. Prov. 10-12; Rom. 10 |
| 14. 1 Chr. 22-24; 1 Th. 3 | 30. Prov. 13-15; Rom. 11 |
| 15. 1 Chr. 25-27; 1 Th. 4 | 31. Prov. 16-18; Rom. 12 |
| 16. 1 Ki. 1; 1 Chr. 28; Ps. 91; 1 Th. 5 | |

The S.O.A.P. Journal Method

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

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

FINANCE REPORT

The church council decided to have a finance update each month in the newsletter. We will show how our giving compares with our budget expenses each month and identify unexpected expenses that needed to be paid with our giving. We try to make giving as easy as possible – during worship you can leave a check or cash in the giving box at the back of the sanctuary. You can arrange to have your bank mail a check to the church at designated intervals; funds can be withdrawn from your checking account once or twice a month automatically using Vanco, which is a company we have chosen to make automatic transfers from your account to the church account. If you wish to give using your credit card, you can go to the church web site at selahumc.org and click on the “Give” button at the top of the

page and follow instructions on that page. Credit card payments from the web page are also processed by Vanco.

Here is how our giving so far this year compared to our expenses:

	January	February	March
Income:	\$11,827.31	\$ 7,266.38	\$ 8,516.77
Expenses:	\$ 9,456.43	\$ 9,499.98	\$ 11,322.20
Plus/Minus	\$ 2,370.88	(\$2,233.60)	(\$2,805.23)

(Inc/Expense)

We started off the year on a positive note, but February and March we had deficits. Part of that is due to the monthly payment for our building insurance starting in February, we hired a janitor in February and restocked our cleaning supplies and paid the entire annual assessment for the irrigation district and weed control. The monthly payment for insurance will continue through September. 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.

May Celebrations

Birthdays

- 4 Gwen Chaplin
- 4 Kyan Helseth
- 6 Beth Barranowski
- 13 Virginia Mackey
- 19 Dan Shelton
- 23 Jessica Johnson
- 24 Marilee Brothers
- 28 David Kaumheimer
- 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.

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/692949701?pwd=LzlnSWYyT1BGUzNhVHc0ME9ydnBLQT09>

Meeting ID: 692 949 701 Password: 021416

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,692949701#,,1#,021416# US (Tacoma)



<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/669186246?pwd=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlNQOT09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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

MAY CALENDAR

3 Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room; Continuing every Wednesday

4 Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 pm in Simonson Room

Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday

7 United Methodist Men Breakfast @ 8:00 in Fellowship Hall

Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom

Holy Communion 5th Sunday of Easter; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom

Potluck and Dessert Auction after worship In Fellowship Hall

Laura Schactler Violin Recital @ 1:00 pm in Sanctuary

9 Book Bunch @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Use meeting link on this page

10 Worship Team Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room

11 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery

14 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;
6th Sunday of Easter; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom

Mother's Day

16 United Women in Faith @ 7:00 pm via Zoom; use meeting link on this page

17 Church Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room

18 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery

19 – 21 Selah Community Days – Carlon Park

21 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;
7th Sunday of Easter; Ascension Sunday and Heritage Sunday
Use link on prior page to join via Zoom

23 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 this page

24 Pinochle Group @ 1:00 in Simonson Room

25 Newsletter Articles Due

Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm at Selah Springs Brewery

28 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom

Penetecost Sunday; Wear Red to Worship Service

Use link on prior page to join via Zoom

29 Memorial Day observed

31 to June 4 – Pastor Mark on Vacation

Selah United Methodist Church

1061 Selah Loop Road
PO Box 545
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 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.”