



The Messenger



November 2023

Selah United Methodist Church

Mark's Remarks

The past few weeks have been filled with opportunities to visit members who are home-bound, hospitalized, recovering in a rehab center, residing in an assisted living facility, or approaching the end of life in a hospice setting. It doesn't require a seminary degree or specialized training for any of us to be present with someone in need of comfort and consolation. They may be dealing with a recent loss, a disappointing outcome, an unanticipated diagnosis, an uncertain future, or feelings of loneliness and isolation. Such times often provide a sacred opportunity of showing that we care—and that we care enough to stand with them, sit with them, walk with them or wait with them.

As Christians, most of us feel unqualified since we usually bring no medical skill, no spiritual gift of healing, no miraculous power and no wondrous solutions. The only things we bring with us are the gifts of prayer and presence. These often seem to be less than enough, but it's what we have to bring and scripture often reminds us that no one facing difficult circumstances should have to face them alone. Many times a shared prayer and time simply being with them is an offering greater than anything else we have to give.

Although I have never mastered the ability to knit, I am so grateful that our church has developed a ministry that allows any of us to give someone a prayer shawl as a tangible reminder of belonging to our church family. I understand the prayerful practice of knitting that goes into creating these shawls. Often they have been prayed over by the Sunday congregation, a ministry team or a fellowship group before delivery.

It is inspiring to see the impact these prayer shawls have on those who receive them. They are an example of the church at its best because, from the first stitch to the final delivery of a prayer shawl, the power of God's grace is at work among us, in us and through us. If you know of a sister or brother who would benefit from the gifts of prayer and presence, let me or another of our leaders know and we'll provide assistance to deliver the gift of faith, hope and love expressed through our prayer shawl ministry. It gives you another reason to be there with them and bring prayer to them. I invite you to be faithful in offering your gifts of presence and prayer. And knitting. Before closing, I wanted to share this note written to accompany the delivery of a prayer shawl:



(Continued from page 1)

Page 2

***This Prayer Shawl** was knit just for you in an alternating three stitch pattern. Three is an important biblical number. It points toward wholeness, completeness, and Divine perfection, symbolized by the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our existence has three stages: life, death and resurrection. We are physical, mental and spiritual beings. Time has past, present and future. Nature is made up of earth, sea and sky. Matter exists as solid, liquid and gas. Beyond all of this, your shawl was prepared in prayer for you...hands, heart and the Holy Spirit lifted you to the Lord from the very first stitch, through every stitch, to the very last stitch. May you continue to feel God's presence in this expression of faith, hope and love offering comfort to you in body, mind and spirit.*

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Mark

MISSION OUTREACH

Selah Food Bank

Our first Selah Harvest Fest was a huge success! The Selah Food Bank, soon to be the Selah Naches Food Bank, was the receiver of the bountiful giving of food for the food bank and the overwhelming support of the vendors, food trucks and kiosks. More than 400 pounds of food items were collected; the total donation is discussed in another newsletter report. The Food Bank Board of Directors and the food bank workers and volunteers are grateful beyond words. Each of you helped make it a success. From their hearts and ours, thank you, thank you.

It's that time of year when good nutritious food that warms cold bodies and bellies is needed. In November, again the food bank requests boxed dinners like Hamburger Helper or Rice/Pasta-a-Roni and soup of all kinds. Or remember the traditions of Thanksgiving dinner. Any of your favorite sides would be great.

November is Boxed Dinner or Soup or Thanksgiving Dinner Favorites Month



The Food Bank has a bright new truck for when they move to their new building and officially become Selah Naches Food Bank.



Rod's House and Camp Hope

These two homeless shelters are both working to prepare for winter and the cold days and nights that will follow.

Rod's House is again planning an "extreme winter weather shelter" that operates from November to March. Each winter, a local motel partners with Rod's House to give rooms for the night to 20 young people, ages 18-24, with 2 or 3 to a room. This year the Day's Inn on North First Street in Yakima will provide a safe, warm room with a bed, shower, microwave and refrigerator. This has been a blessing to many homeless young people over the past few years. Meal partners provide warm meals in the evening that the young people can take to their room at the severe winter shelter. Rod's House also asks for meals at the yellow Rod's House on Naches which continues to be open during winter weekdays for food and showers until 6:00 p.m. Camp Hope works hard to provide warm shelter and food for the more than 100 residents. Wesley UMC and Selah UMC provide a warm meal to gathering residents each month. The dinner tent is cold, but the residents are bundled in warm coats and blankets as they line up uncomplaining for the hot dinner served to them by UMC members who are equally as grateful for their smiles and "God bless you" words of appreciation. Donations of blankets and cold-weather sleeping bags are always welcomed.

WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Worship Team met on Wednesday, October 18th in the Worship Arts Room for its regular meeting. The group shared some of the reactions from visitors who toured the building during the Harvest Fest. Reactions were very positive. Some folks had never been in the building before and were impressed. The tent in the "Kid's Club" (Sunday School) room got good reviews. The group talked about how we can help our young worshippers feel at home in the church. It was suggested that we treat the youngsters like they were part of your family, and engage them in conversation about themselves to get to know them. We also suggested that we can give them tasks to do, like lighting the candles. It is important to have adults who can be with the children at Kid's Club. If you are willing to help out, talk to Cheryl Natland. The church received eight new members in October. That makes a total of 17 new members in 2023 (so far)! We welcome all of them and encourage everyone to get to know them. The church will be celebrating All-Saints Sunday on November 5th. There will be the reading of the names of those members who have died in the past year and their relatives will be invited to light candles as a part of the worship service. We will be celebrating Holy Communion on that day, and others will have the opportunity to light candles in memory of loved ones as they come forward for Communion. If you know of a member of the church who has died in the past year, please tell Pastor Mark, or Kevin or Elaine Dow. The team has a list of names, but we don't want to accidentally overlook someone. We would rather have a name twice than miss someone.



(Continued from page 3)

Page 4

November 12th is Laity Sunday, and Shelley Von Essen is planning the service. Pastor Mark will be on vacation on November 12th and 19th.

November 26th is Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday of the Liturgical year.

The Team will meet on Wednesday November 8th at 6:00 pm. It is hoped that people who work during the daytime will choose to come to the church on that evening to help plan for Advent and Christmas worship services.

Mark is planning a "Longest Night" service again this year. It will be held on December 21st and is primarily for those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Selah UMC is the recipient of the Paraments from Grandview UMC, which is now closed. They will be incorporated into our worship services.

-- Kevin Dow

Selah United Women in Faith



The afternoon of Saturday, November 4th, the UWF will gather at 2:00 pm in the Worship Arts room (aka Choir room) to make some cute pumpkin bouquets. We will take these pumpkin bouquets to our shut-ins or those members of our congregation who could use a little cheer in their day. If you would like to join us for making these bouquets. Talk to Tressa Cummings or Lisa Williams.

Selah United Women in Faith will meet Sunday, November 19th at 12:15 pm (after church) in the Simonson Room. We will be having soup for lunch. The program will be on Thank Banks. Throughout the year UWF save their change and put it in a Thank Bank container. Each time we put change in the container we remember what we are thankful for in our lives. the money collected will go to one of our mission institutions or mission program that reaches out to women, children, or youth.

A copy of our Response Magazine will be available for anyone to read. The magazine highlights the work of mission institutions. It will be on the table next to the sanctuary doors.

-Tressa Cummings, Selah UWF President

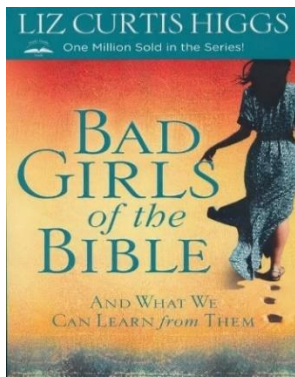
BOOK BUNCH: GOOD FOR THE SOUL

It's said that reading is good for the soul. Reading (and chatting) is what Book Bunch does, so Book Bunch *must* be good for the soul... .



(Continued from page 4)

Page 5



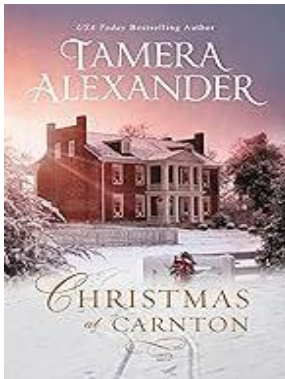
For November, the Bunch was "tempted" to select *Bad Girls of the Bible: And What We Can Learn from Them* (2013) by Liz Curtis Higgs. This non-fiction work will be a departure from the Bunch's usual Christian inspired fiction selections. Joy McFarland has kindly volunteered to facilitate discussions on November 14th and 27th.

This widely popular book delves into the lives of Bathsheba, Herodias, Jezebel and Eve, among other "bad girls." "Liz takes—with humility and humor—the evangelical message and puts it in a lens that anybody can look through. A truly remarkable accomplishment." --

Religion and Ethics NewsWeekly

Find out more about this fascinating book at: <https://www.lizcurtishiggs.com/books/bad-girls-bible/>

The Bunch participants will meet just once in December, on the 12th, to share their impressions of *Christmas at Carnton: A Novella*, (2017) by Tamera



Alexander, a prolific Christian fiction author. This uplifting novel is set in the Civil War, and there's romance in the 1800s air. Details here:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/0310293243?tag=readthistwice-20&linkCode=ogi&th=1&psc=1>

Participants are encouraged to wear Christmas attire and bangles for this virtual get together. Bring a holiday mug and cookies. The gathering will be a little longer, to allow time for sharing Christmas plans and showing home decorations.

Book Bunch usually meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, at 7:00 PM. It includes questions about ways the reading relates to our respective Christian faith and practice. Check the church calendar for schedule changes, or contact Lee Hamilton. **Note:** ALL are encouraged to tune in--- and read if you can. Attendees may participate regularly, or to discuss a particular book, or on a catch-as-catch-can basis.

- Lee Hamilton

Please Support My Family

I would appreciate the support of my church family on November 8 at 1:30 pm at Yakima County Courthouse (222 N 2nd St). My niece and nephew, Timothy age 6 and Delilah age 8, were killed by an addicted driver in February of this year. They are Daniel's younger siblings - Daniel has attended worship with me several times. The plea deal for the driver, defendant Keith Goings was thrown by the judge and he will be sentenced on November 8. Please wear purple or green as those were Timothy and Delilah's favorite colors. Please consider attending to support the family. Thank you.

- Josh Lowe



S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY NOVEMBER

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Ps. 121; Mark 9-10 | 16. 2 Cor. 3-6 |
| 2. Job 23-24; Mark 11-12 | 17. 2 Cor. 7-10 |
| 3. Job 25; Mark 13-14 | 18. Ps. 124; 2 Cor. 11-13 |
| 4. Job 26-27; Mark 15-16 | 19. Mt. 1-4 |
| 5. Job 28-29; Gal. 1-2 | 20. Mt. 5-7 |
| 6. Job 30; Ps. 120; Gal. 3-4 | 21. Mt. 8-10 |
| 7. Job 31-32; Gal. 5-6 | 22. Mt. 11-13 |
| 8. Job 33; 1 Cor. 1-3 | 23. Mt. 14-16 |
| 9. Job 34; 1 Cor. 4-6 | 24. Mt. 17-19 |
| 10. Job 35-36; 1 Cor. 7-8 | 25. Mt. 20-22 |
| 11. Ps. 122; 1 Cor. 9-11 | 26. Mt. 23-25 |
| 12. Job 37-38; 1 Cor. 12 | 27. Ps. 125; Mt. 26-27 |
| 13. Job 39-40; 1 Cor. 13-14 | 28. Mt. 28; 1 Th. 1-3 |
| 14. Ps. 149; 1 Cor. 15-16 | 29. 1 Th. 4-5; 2 Th. 1-3 |
| 15. Job 41-42; 2 Cor. 1-2 | 30. Rom. 1-4 |

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

Giving was down in September. Below is how our giving the last two months compared to our expenses:

	August	September	Year to Date
Income	\$9,852.29	\$8,008.48	\$85,492.30
Expenses	\$9,749.37	\$10,387.50	\$101,028.42
Plus/Minus	\$ 102.92	(\$2,379.02)	(\$16,000.12)



Harvest Festival Huge Success

Selah UMC's first harvest festival was a huge success raising \$2500 for the Selah Food Bank construction project and 400 lbs of food was donated to the food bank that day. A lot of people from our church contributed their skills, time, energy, and funds to plan and organize the event – from logistics for the day, finding and registering vendors, planning fun events for kids, organizing volunteers, cooking hot dogs, chicken, baked beans, preparing salad, handling money the day of the event and more and deserve a thank you for their efforts. But I want to lift up and give special thanks to Cindy and Jeff Parkey, Laurie and Jim Knebusch and Lisa Williams for their efforts in leading the effort and doing a lot of the front end-planning. It would never have happened without their efforts. Below are some of the pictures from that day. Again, Thank You to all who helped that day as well as the days leading up to the festival.

- Becky Johnson





November Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Renee Heide
- 1 Trent Harrington
- 3 Kendra Behn-Smith
- 6 Karen Davis
- 13 Glennis Wilson
- 15 Nicolai Kreger
- 20 Joy McFarland
- 20 Zachary Voight
- 25 John Herdrich
- 26 Gregg Charcas
- 28 John Baranowski

Anniversaries

No anniversaries to share in November



If you are relatively new to the church (began attending in last couple years) or have not seen your birthday or anniversary listed, 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

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)

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 P B& J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
- Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
- 2 Ladies Circle @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. @ Daniel's Restaurant



- 4 Memorial Service for Dorothy Justice @ 10:00 a.m. @ Keith and Keith Funeral Home
Reception in Fellowship Hall @ 11:30 a.m.
United Women of Faith Pumpkin Bouquet Activity in Worship Arts Room @2:00 pm
- 5 **Daylight Savings Time ends.** Set clocks back one hour.
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 prior page
Holy Communion, 23rd Sunday after Pentecost; **All Saints Sunday**
- 7 **Election Day** - Be sure to vote
- 8 P B & J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
Worship Team Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 8 - 19 Pastor Mark and Lisa on vacation
- 9 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. Daniel's Restaurant, Selah
- 11 **Veterans Day**
- 12 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on prior page
24th Sunday after Pentecost; **Laity Sunday**
Potluck following worship in Fellowship Hall
- 14 Book Bunch @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Use Meeting link on prior page
- 15 P B & J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
- 16 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. Daniel's Restaurant, Selah
- 19-26 **International Bible Week**
- 19 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on prior page
25th Sunday after Pentecost.
United Women in Faith following Worship @ 12:15 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 22 P B & J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
- 23 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 24 **No 4th Friday Fun Night**
- 25 **Newsletter Article Due**
- 26 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on prior page
26th Sunday after Pentecost. Reign of Christ Sunday
Kids Fun Day @ church; noon to 2:00 p.m.
- 27 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom; use meeting link on prior page
- 28 Camp Hope Dinner organized and prepared by Wesley UMC and SUMC
- 29 P B & J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
Church Council @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 30 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, Selah

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
December newsletter are due
November 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.”