



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

October 2022

Mark's Remarks



This is my favorite time of year. I don't mean the start of fall, or the cooler days, or the turning of the leaves. My favorite time is seeing or sensing the change of seasons—the first frost of autumn, the first snowflakes of winter, the first blooms of spring, or the first berries of summer. These signals of change come with the changing of the seasons, and they always capture my attention and imagination.

Some people say they don't want any change. They don't like change and wish things would remain always as they are. Others are only comfortable with change when they themselves are in control of the degree and pace of change.

I enjoy the changing of the seasons because everything is completely beyond my control. The seasonal changes transpire in their own time in their own way. They remind me that God is in charge, and I don't have to be. I have no control over the seasonal transitions as they unfold. The only thing I can control is how I react to the changes as they take place around me. And most of the time I find change easier to bear if my response is infused with wonder. I am on the lookout for signs of life, for the presence of God. Sooner or later I gain a sense of God's living presence in the midst of every change, whether the season comes as I've anticipated, or comes unexpectedly. I try to look for what's new this year, this season, this day.

I'm always looking for evidence of God's words spoken through the Prophet Isaiah: "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?" (Is. 43:19)

Are we attentive to new things sprouting up? Are God's fingerprints apparent during the transitions in the seasons, the church, the community and within ourselves? Do we allow for the possibility that Isaiah 43:19 is unfolding in our midst, right before our eyes?

I'm not sure that we can see very many "new" things popping up around the church, but I hope we remain attentive so we don't miss the changes coming about as time passes.

On the surface, things at Selah United Methodist Church may appear similar to how they have been in the past. I invite you to look more closely. A lot of people have put in a lot of time to make changes to the fellowship spaces in the church building. Coffee Hour, and 2nd Sunday Potlucks are back. In the coming weeks you may notice some changes to the worship space—perhaps even the creation and recreation of other worship spaces. The grounds around the building are also receiving attention and undergoing changes.



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When we perceive these transitions and changes, we'll need to choose how we react. Will we feel frustration when confronted with the unexpected? or will we look with wonder at what God is doing? Will we wish things would remain as they have been? or will we embrace the transformation around us so that we, too, might be transformed?

We may not know much regarding what changes are coming, We only know that God is the only constant upon which we can, and should, rely.

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Mark

Mission Outreach

Elizabeth, the Student and Family Advocate at Selah High School, wrote that she is very "thankful" for the members of Selah United Methodist Church. Her little pantry needed deodorant, and we generously helped fill her shelves. Thank you for your always big-hearted support of the special needs at the high school.

Selah Naches Food Bank

The planned new food bank had a rousing groundbreaking on September 14th. The shell of the new building should be completed by winter, and if all goes well, the new food bank building will be up and running by Spring. The volunteers and workers have not been distracted by the excitement of the new food bank. They continue to be open as always to Selah and Naches area residents every Monday and Friday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and are busy throughout the week organizing and filling shelves so that they are ready when the doors open.



This is the hardworking Management Team with shovels who lead the food bank program. From left to right: Dave Ripperger, Operations and Donations leader, Tammy Ripperger, Operations and Volunteer leader, Bill White, Team Supervisor. When you enter the civic center food bank, these three are always there with big smiles along with their team of rotating volunteers.

In September, our congregation filled the Church basket with close to 50 boxes of cereal. These will certainly help families as they ready for breakfast time before school or crave an afternoon snack after school. In October, Dave and Tammy are asking for soup of all kinds, canned, boxed or packaged, and canned meat like tuna and chicken. Thank you from the food bank for all your nonperishable donations whether they be the special request or your choice. They are so grateful.

October is Soup and Canned Meat Month



Camp Hope

Wesley UMC cooks and bakers have planned another nourishing and hearty meal for the homeless residents of Camp Hope. We at Selah UMC help where and when we can with the Camp Hope meal and delivery. You may be interested to know that the preparation at Wesley also includes food for Noah's Ark in Wapato. The menu is prepared for about 150 residents at both sites, a mammoth endeavor each month. This month's dinner includes beef enchilada casserole, coleslaw, mixed vegetables, brownies, cookies and milk. Whatever the Wesley cooks prepare, the residents gush with appreciation and gratitude. *God Bless You* they say.

WORSHIP TEAM REPORT



The Worship Team met on Wednesday, September 7th. Margaret Antanaitis opened the meeting with prayer. The group discussed the use of gluten-free Communion Bread. In the past we have had gluten-free wafers available for anyone who requires it, but they are dipped into the common cup, and so it is not a best practice. There is a bakery in Yakima that makes gluten-free bread, and it is used by some of the churches in town for their Communion services. We will get a sample and try it out to see how it works and then decide based on our trial. For World Communion Sunday we will have wafers ready, and a decision will be made on the gluten-free bread for November.

We discussed the new bulletin format, which is a single sheet printed on both sides in landscape and folded. Kevin started printing them that way at the start of September, and feedback has been positive so far. The group also discussed the back-to-school service, which had a poor response. The team thinks the concept has merit but didn't work this time for a variety of reasons. People were anxious to get away after being at home during the pandemic, and different schools where our members live started on different days. By the time we had a special service, some of the students had already been back at school for a week.

The big storage cabinet in the Sacristy needed to be moved, as it restricted access to the electrical panel and the fire inspector flagged it as a violation. That has now been accomplished.

There are some special Sundays coming up:

World Communion Sunday on October 2nd (a Special Sunday with offering)

Laity Sunday on October 16th. Mark will talk to the Church Council to see if someone is willing to take leadership.

All-Saints Sunday on November 6th. The team has names of those who died recently. Some of them were remembered a year ago but have had Memorial Services recently. Those include Hilda Ward, Florence Manske, Mick Mackey, Diane Hall, Bev Goodman, Don Hobbs, and Mary Lee Hulse. If you know of others who should be remembered on All-Saints Sunday,



please tell either Margaret Antanaitis or Kevin Dow.

Veterans Sunday on November 16th where those who have served will be asked to stand and be recognized during the service.

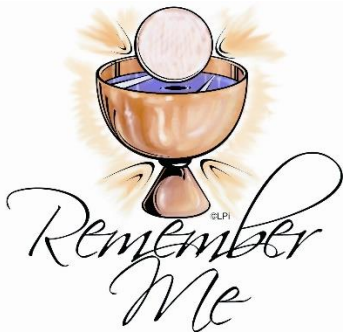
United Methodist Student Day on November 27th. Kevin suggested getting students who had received scholarships from the church to participate in the worship service that day.

Lisa Williams asked about a missionary named Ellyn Benson Dubberly who may have a prior relationship with Selah UMC. She may be available to make a presentation about her work with United Methodist missions.

The next Worship Team meeting will be held Wednesday, October 19th at 1:00 PM in the Simonson Room. If you are interested in being a part of this important work, please let us know. We are willing to change our meeting time to accommodate new members.

Kevin Dow

Special Offering for World Communion Sunday October 2, 2022



Holy Communion brings us together us in Christian unity. This sacrament invites us to focus on the holiness of communion with God and one another. On **World Communion Sunday** - United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our

Lord and Savior. This universal and inclusive connection is the foundation of the special offering for World Communion Sunday.

Your donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities. In 2021, World Communion Sunday offerings awarded 242 scholarships and grants. Your generosity continues to provide scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development. The needs exceed what we can fund and your gifts can further growth and success.

Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. Thirty-five percent supports racial and ethnic scholarships for students pursuing ordained ministry (deacon or elder) and includes a mentoring program.

Fifteen percent funds Ethnic-In-Service Training Grant for leadership development, recruitment, training, and retention of ethnic United Methodist persons in leadership positions in every level of the church and its ministry.

The United Methodist Church, the world and our communities are in a time of transition. Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to extend healing and hope which will guide us to becoming a new creation in Christ. Through our gifts and support, we can invest in talented, qualified students from around the globe to transform the world as witnesses for Christ!



Thank you Bob

Bob Ruud has kept the lawns at the church nicely mowed for more years than I can remember. Any one driving by our church sees a lovingly cared for lawn and exterior and much of the credit goes to Bob. Bob has retired from this responsibility at the church and Ed Davis has graciously picked up the task. He has big shoes to fill, but I am confident he will do a great job. Thank you, Bob for your any years doing lawn care and Ed for taking it on.

Selah United Women in Faith

Missionary Ellyn Dubberly to Visit SUMC



We are excited to host Ellyn Benson Dubberly at SUMC October 26 as she shares her experiences and work in Central America. Ellyn was commissioned in 2013 as a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

She has taught at a Methodist school in El Salvador for several years and serves as a leadership development coordinator.

The entire congregation is invited to a dessert social 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 26, to meet Ellyn and learn more about the impact of her work in the missional field. The event is hosted by the United Women in Faith. Our unit sends \$25.00 and birthday greetings to five missionaries each year. Ellyn was one of the missionaries that we sent to this year. It is not very often we get to host a missionary. Cookies, brownies, coffee and lemonade will be served. at 7:00 p.m.



Our next meeting will be October 18th at 7:00 pm via zoom using the meeting link.

Tressa Cummings, Selah United Women in Faith President

Oktoberfest Potluck



Dust off the cookbooks—it's time for a traditional church potluck. Bring a friend, bring your favorite festive fall dish to share Sunday, October 9, following worship. Let us celebrate the arrival of fall, our many blessings and the opportunity to share a meal together. Table service & beverages will be provided. An open discussion on exploring a Reconciling Ministry for SUMC will be held following the meal.



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT



Early in the summer the Church Council decided that we should have an AED device available in the church. Nathan Miller researched the models available, made recommendation to council on which one to purchase, arranged for purchase and just recently installed the AED in the Narthex. There is a manual with step by step instructions on use and it is virtually impossible to use it incorrectly. However, many of us felt it would be helpful to have a demonstration along with a CPR Class. We will be scheduling the class in the next few weeks, but need to know how many church members will be interested in attending the CPR/AED Class when it is scheduled. Recognizing that a final commitment cannot be made until a date is set, there will be a signup sheet on the round table in the Narthex to the left when leaving the sanctuary or send an email to church at selahumc@gmail.com

The Council also recently decided to participate in the Selah Chamber of Commerce

Business Trick or Treat which is held on October 31 from 4:00 to 6:30 pm. Along with participating as part of the business trick or treat, we are inviting you to set up in the parking lot for Trunk and Treat at the same time. In case you have not heard of Trunk or Treat, you decorate your open trunk and have candy to hand out to kids. There will be a prize for “Best of Show” and it will come with bragging rights for a year. Here is a picture of a decorated trunk at a prior Trunk or Treat event. Wearing a costume is highly recommended but not



required.

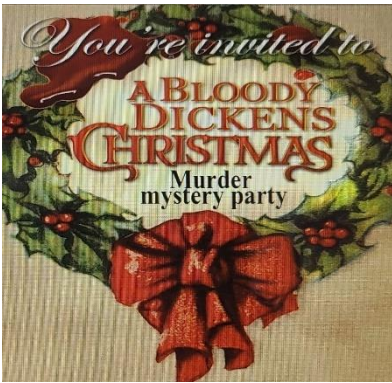
You can participate in one of three ways: Be at the church to help hand out candy as part of the business trick or treat, donate candy for the business trick or treat, bring your car, decorate the trunk and hand out candy from your car. The Chamber reports that in the past there have been 600+ kids that have passed through businesses on Halloween, so we need a lot of candy! What a great opportunity for us to be part of a community event. Donated candy can be left in the church office.

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY DATES NEEDED

We are blessed that our congregation has grown over the past few months. As you can see each month in our newsletter we recognize birthdays and anniversaries of our congregation. If you are new to our church or haven't seen your birthday/anniversary in the newsletter, please let us know those important dates. You can send an email to the church email address at selahumc@gmail.com or to Becky Johnson at bjoh461@fairpoint.net



December Potluck Plans



Come join the Christmas fun! Book Bunch is hosting the December 11th potluck with our first annual Murder Mystery Luncheon. We'll all prepare a special Christmas menu, merrily served in courses and accompanied by sparkling cider. We'll solve who done it while role-playing and dressed as our Dickens-inspired characters, with a special appearance of Ebenezer Scrooge! We're decorating the Fellowship Hall to be as festive as possible and looking for table sponsors. So, please let us know if you'd like to bring out that Christmas china, polish up that silver, and make a table sparkle. Invite your friends and extended family for lots of merry-making and caroling. Please call Tereica Kaumheimer 509-930-0318 or Lisa Holyfield 509-961-1753 if you'd like more information (except to find out who done it, cause they won't know till the end, either!) Any questions, give us a call.

Tereica and Lisa

READ ALONG WITH SELAH UMC BOOK BUNCH

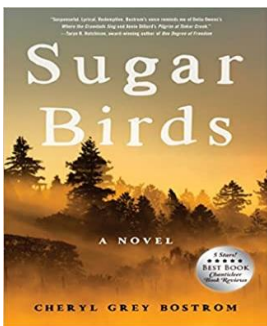
Participation in Book Bunch can be ongoing, or periodic if you are interested in a particular novel. The group enjoys Christian fiction including romance and mystery. The novels are often lighthearted but invariably inspiring. The gatherings happen on Zoom (church meeting link) the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. However, note the adjusted holiday schedule as follows: November 1, 8 (planning session for December church-wide Potluck November 29 and December 13 [only]).

In October, Book Bunch will begin reading *Sugar Birds: A Novel* (2021) by Cheryl Grey Bostrom, and will discuss it over 3 consecutive sessions. The novel is critically acclaimed in several categories of fiction, including inspirational and religious. Here's a summary:

For years, Harris Hayes has taught his daughter, Aggie, the ways of the northern woods. So when her mother's depression worsens, Harris shows the girl how to find and sketch the nests of wild birds as an antidote to sadness.

Aggie is in a tree far overhead when her unpredictable mother spots her and forbids her to climb. Angry, the ten-year-old accidentally lights a tragic fire, then flees downriver. She lands her boat near untamed forest, where she hides among the trees and creatures she considers her only friends-determined to remain undiscovered. A search party gathers by Aggie's empty boat hours after Celia, fresh off the plane from Houston, arrives at her grandmother's nearby farm. Hurting from her parents' breakup, she also plans to run. But when she joins the hunt for Aggie, she meets two irresistible young men who compel her to stay. One is autistic; the other, dangerous.

<https://www.amazon.com/Sugar-Birds-Cheryl-Grey-Bostrom/dp/1647420687>





TO BE OR NOT TO BE A RECONCILING CHURCH

Ron Drew has been providing us with information about becoming a reconciling church over the past few months. Other members of our church have decided to provide their perspectives on the subject and they are below:

Reconciling Church by the Grace of God in Christ

The Apostle Paul spoke of a strong sense of unity in Christ: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:28) This change of relationships is based on our experience of grace, not on rules or laws. Of course this was novel and aspirational. These social categories still existed, and the Western world still discriminated against slaves, females, and Jews. Yet when he sent Onesimus, a slave, back to Philemon, his owner, he instructed the latter to treat Onesimus as a "brother" in Christ. The basis for this necessary change was again an experience of grace, as Paul put it, Philemon, actually "owed" his "own self" to Paul's bringing him the grace and comfort of the "good news" about Christ. (Philem 19)

Paul elsewhere spoke of the church's need for its diverse people in the work it has to do, and called this ministry to which all of us are called, the "ministry of reconciliation." (II Cor. 5:18) But being "reconciled to God" does not occur by our race, gender or economic status, much of which are determined by nothing more than the sheer accidents of our birth. Rather, the "reconciliation" has become reality for us through Christ which is the "grace of God." (II Cor. 5:19-6:1)

We are grateful to be accepted back, after our absence to AZ for 8 years, and to find that our church here is taking seriously what Paul preached, in our "ministry of reconciliation."

Dessie and Royce Clark

For many years, we have been a safe and caring community of faith for special needs families, and for families whose gay children were not welcomed into the churches the families were attending. Those families found us by chance. How many other families were searching for a church home, but didn't find us? The Reconciling Ministries Network helps those who are searching find a truly welcoming, safe, and caring faith community, in their area. We all have the desire to be that safe and caring place. This is why I support our becoming a Reconciling Ministry.

Chuck Natland

Becoming a Reconciling church. What a complex topic for me. There are so many thoughts that come to mind. When it comes down to it for me it boils down to accepting how different we humans all are from one another. We wrestle with the ability to accept our differences and love one another. I think of marriage. We chose to marry someone from another family. In essence, that's a person from a different culture. They grew up with different beliefs. They attended different churches or didn't attend at all. Food choices were



different. The households were different. Yet, we came together, overcame the many obstacles, and have experienced loving with a very different human being. The same concept is even stronger when you think about the congregation of the church you attend. My husband I came from very different Christian backgrounds. We decided to become Methodist because, in our understanding at the time, Methodism was known for a wide range of acceptance. And we were both able to feel at home most of the time. I still hold the belief that Methodists are a little more accepting of our differences. A lot of times, we choose to disregard a belief of a friend or fellow member of the congregation that we might not personally hold and simply come together to worship a God we each believe in, in our own way. Scripture teaches us to never step in the way of another Christian's worship. Scripture teaches us that we need to serve others, many of whom we have very little understanding. I think one of the things that make the Reconciling Church more difficult is we are being asked to look at the concept head on. And, it is change. We're being asking us to broaden our abilities to love and accept. I choose to do that kind of thing one small step at a time, maybe not even seeing where I'm going. For me, that's just fine. I can trust the process. I do know that I am not afraid to learn more about loving others. I am not afraid of taking the risk with you, my fellow Christians, and see where it takes us. I also love being a part of a group striving for expansion and for becoming something more. This looks like one of those opportunities. I hope that we proceed forward as a congregation, each in our own way, at our own speed, on this path together, being guided by the Holy Spirit.

Shelley Von Essen

ALASKA STORM RELIEF

In September a powerful storm hit western Alaska, doing damage across the region. [The Anchorage Daily News describes](#) the landscape around Nome as "physically altered for the foreseeable future, with raw material scattered wildly, the coastline reconfigured. The report describes the impact upon the community in similar ways to Alaska Conference Communicator Rev. Jim Doepken, who was in Nome this week. "A lot of folks noticed minimal damage in town, although businesses and roads were hit harder. One business was leveled by a fire that occurred during the storm. It is a different story with the subsistence fish camps – some people have had for a couple of generations – along the water. Many were wiped out." Whether it is a storm ravaging the Alaskan coast or floods and wildfires devastating rural areas of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, the impact is often felt hardest by those already economically vulnerable. Sometimes, they are only able to recover with the help provided by benevolent response organizations and dedicated volunteers. The Alaska Conference announced [in its weekly newsletter](#) that it was encouraging its churches to hold special offerings this Sunday for the Alaska Conference Advance #310 to aid its disaster response efforts. Alaska Conference Disaster Response Coordinator Rev. Dan Wilcox also shared that



training opportunities for those interested in being part of an Early Response Team were in the works. This weekend also saw a devastating storm pass over Puerto Rico. The category one hurricane led to widespread flooding and, for a time, the loss of power for the entire island. Different parts of the GNW Area continue to be impacted by wildfires and the toxic smoke they produce. These (un)natural disasters fueled by climate change are becoming all too common.

Wherever you live, I hope you'll consider what you can do to contribute to relief efforts for those impacted near and far. We are blessed as a church to have the support of The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in this work. Consider how you can give in ways beyond money as well – through prayer, training, and preparation.

Patrick Scriven

Director of Communications, Pacific Northwest Conference

OCTOBER Celebrations

Birthdays

- 5 Alicia Shoddy
J. R. Schenk
- 10 David Charcas
- 11 Mark Williams
- 12 Brad Schilperoort
- 13 Jacob Mahugh
- 16 Rob Gallion
- 21 Justin Justice
- 23 Chuck Natland

Anniversaries

- 3 Merl & Marilee Brothers
- 10 Kevin & Elaine Dow
- 21 Dave & Tereica Kaumheimer

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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlNQTO9>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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



OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 2 United Methodist Men Breakfast @ 8:00 am in Fellowship Hall
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
World Communion Sunday; 17th Sunday after Pentecost.
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 5 Coffee With the Pastor @ 9:30 am at Sundance Espresso; Continuing every Wednesday
- 6 Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 pm Simonson Room
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 9 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
18th Sunday after Pentecost See link on prior page to join via Zoom
Oktoberfest Potluck in Fellowship Hall After Church
- 10 Indigenous People Day
- 11 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom
Use meeting link on prior page
- 16 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Laity Sunday 19th Sunday after Pentecost See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 18 United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) @ 7:00 pm via Zoom
Use meeting link on prior page
- 19 Worship Team Meeting @ 1:00 pm in Simonson Room
Church Council meeting @ 6:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 23 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
20th Sunday after Pentecost See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 25 **Newsletter articles due**
Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom
Use meeting link on prior page to join via Zoom
Camp Hope Dinner, prepared and delivered by Wesley with help from SUMC
- 26 **Missionary Elynn Benson Dubberly presentation @ 7:00 pm at church**
- 30 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Reformation Sunday; 20th Sunday after Pentecost;
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 31 **Halloween – Business Trick or Treat and
Trunk and Treat @ 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Church Parking Lot**

Mark your calendar – the piggies will be called home on November 6. The money collected will go to the Selah Fire Dept Firepup Program. The funds will be used to purchase materials used to educate children on fire safety, burn prevention, how to dial 911, use of fire alarms, etc. More information will be in the November newsletter.

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
November newsletter are due
October 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.”