



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

September 2021



August brought a lot of changes for all of us: new carpeting in the narthex, changes in mask mandates and singing during worship, and Pastor Dirk's transition from Selah UMC to the United States Navy. Pastor Dirk (Chaplain Robinson) will be serving in extension ministry as an active-duty military chaplain. This means he will remain a part of the Pacific Northwest Conference but will be working full-time with service members and their families.

For the next 12 weeks, Dirk will be in Newport, Rhode Island completing Officer Development School and Naval Chaplaincy School. This is similar to what he went through when becoming a chaplain for the Army National Guard, but he'll get to learn all the Navy regulations and acronyms. At the end of Dirk's training, we will be moving cross-country so Dirk can report to his permanent duty station: Naval District Washington's Headquarters in Washington, DC.

This is an amazing blessing for the two of us. Dirk will get the opportunity to minister to military service members full time, again, something instrumental in his original calling into ministry. We will also be much closer to family. The DC area is where I grew up and almost all of my family will be within a short drive. Moving closer to them was part of our long-term plans and we never expected the Navy would send us there. As Dirk said when we found out, "this is a God thing."





I'm sure the next few months will continue to bring change, but we will get through this together. As always, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

-Noah Zalewski

New Pastor Appointment Process Started

Just want to update everyone on what is happening within the Conference for getting a new pastor appointed to Selah UMC. The Church Council met Monday evening via Zoom with the new District Superintendent, Daniel Miranda. There were 12 people from the council and the congregation attending the meeting. Daniel reviewed the process that happens in the United Methodist Church for filling the pulpits for the many Churches in the Conference. The Bishop, Cabinet and other leaders of the Conference meet and evaluate the needs of the Congregations and the pastors that are available for reassignment or new assignments, if just out of Seminary. Right now the Conference is in a situation where there are more Churches needing pastors than there are pastors to be appointed. Annual Conference just met in June and assignments were made and new appointments started July 1. However, there are several Churches that were not filled due to the shortage and mostly likely will get top priority. So, this was not the best of times for us to come up needing someone new assigned to SUMC. But God's plans for Dirk worked out now, so we will be happy for him and will get through the our situation per God's plans for us.

Daniel indicated that it would most likely be late November or even December (if even then) before someone would be available full time to come to Selah. So, we will be responsible for filling the pulpit each Sunday until then. Luckily, we are able to call on Mark R. Williams who is an ordained elder in the Conference, living in Kennewick, that just happens to be available for "fill-in" ministry for congregations like our that find themselves "between a rock and a hard spot". Mark has made himself available to us for most of the time up until at least the end of November. He preached for the first time this morning (8/29/21) and I heard many positive comments after the worship service. Kevin has agreed to preach on the 26th of September and officiate the baptism of Meilla Miller and Rex has said that he would be available also if needed. The worship committee will be working on a schedule for any special Sunday services such as Laity Sunday when the pulpit could be filled by others.

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Hopefully we will be able to continue to meet in the Church building with a worship service every Sunday. We will continue the programs/meetings that Dirk instigated (Tuesday morning coffee; Thursday check-in via Zoom and Pub Theology on Thursday; see details in Calendar) and will do the best we can until we have a fulltime pastor again. Please be patient, hang in there and if you have any questions, please get a hold of any council member:

Gail Davis, Debbie Jesperson, Connie Schramm, Merl Brothers, Glennis Wilson, Bill Walton, Don Chaplin, Ron Drew, Lyle or Shelley Von Essen, Margaret Antanaitis, Noah Zalewski

Mission Outreach

The Selah Food Bank is in full swing with summer bounty of fresh fruit and vegetables. They were so happy to receive all the baking products this congregation provided in August. So much so that they asked that we continue with more baking products and boxed dinners in September. Any non-perishable food is always welcome, as well.

SEPTEMBER IS BAKING SUPPLY AND BOXED DINNER MONTH

Rod's House has a steady flow of young people from noon to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday. During the very hot weather the staff turn on cooling misters all along the fence to help cool down those who have come for their services. The picture shows Rod's House with its manicured lawn, a welcoming respite for the young people as they arrive for food, showers, clothes and counseling...and misting. The misters don't show in the photo, but they were there spraying and cooling the perimeter in 100-degree heat.



NW Harvest has been closed to the volunteering public all through the pandemic. With schools opening, we have wondered if the Backpack Mission might resume in October. The Wesley UMC Organizers still don't know if the staff at NW Harvest will be able to open to volunteers on the third Saturday to continue this worthy mission. Stay tuned.

Camp Hope is full and has remained safe from COVID infections. The Wesley UMC cooks and bakers provided a baked spaghetti meal with salad, vegetables, cookies, milk and lemonade in August. In July, SUMC volunteers were able to help serve. It had been almost 18 months since outsiders had been able to talk and laugh with the residents who are always so happy to see us. This was Pastor Dirk's last time to serve and tell each one of the residents as they passed through the food line that they "are a beloved child of God". They will miss his blessing.



WORSHIP TEAM REPORT



The Worship Team met August 9th at 1:00 PM in the Simonson Room. Margaret Antanaitis, team leader called the meeting to order. Pastor Dirk offered the opening prayer. All team members were present as were Church Council chair, Gail Davis and Selah's Lay Member to Annual Conference, Chuck Natland. Team members already had information about Pastor Dirk's leaving to assume the position as a chaplain for the U.S. Navy. The Team discussed what

would happen now. Kevin Dow will conduct the worship service on August 22nd, which Dirk has asked him to do in case Dirk needed to be at Navy training by that date. (As it worked out, Dirk left on the 20th). Kevin has also agreed to officiate at a Baptism for Miella Miller tentatively scheduled for September 25th. Chuck has been in contact with Daniel Miranda, the new District Superintendent, who thinks it might be October before we could have a replacement appointed to Selah. Chuck has also talked with Mark Williams to see if he had an interest in serving as a supply pastor.

The Team discussed the need to pay whoever serves as supply on Sunday mornings until a replacement can be appointed. Kevin stated that he didn't want to be paid for the Sundays he served as supply, as he wants to see it as a gift to the congregation where he worships but suggested that we pay \$100 per Sunday to others who supply the pulpit. It was agreed to make that recommendation to the Council. The Team also noted that there is other work in the job of the pastor, and that we shouldn't overlook the need to compensate whoever helps out with pastoral care during the interim. That issue is outside the purview of the Worship Team, so no recommendation was made.

The Team also discussed COVID restrictions. When we started having outdoor worship services this Spring, Dirk had aligned our congregation with Option 2 of the Conference plan for dealing with COVID. Option 2 allows congregations to take local conditions into consideration, along with local, state and CDC guidelines. Selah has a relatively large sanctuary, and the congregation has been good about observing social distancing and masking protocols as they have changed. The number of worshippers has been well below 25% of our capacity. We haven't been putting hymn numbers in worship programs and have been excluding indications inviting people to stand during hymns. Although lyrics for the hymns are on the screens, the congregation has been advised that they are there to encourage folks to reflect on the words, and not to sing.

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The Team decided to continue to use the sealed Communion “kits” and have them opened at the same time, so worshippers are celebrating the Sacrament together. It was decided not to have the “Blessing of the Beasts” this year, which would be an outdoor service on Labor Day weekend. Planning for the future will depend on whoever is supplying the Pulpit in the months ahead. If there are elements in the worship service that are meaningful, or things that are not meaningful in the service, please let a member of the Team know your feelings. Team members are Margaret Antanaitis, Gwen Chaplin, Cheryl Natland, Bill Walton and Kevin & Elaine Dow.



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Selah UMW

Our UMW has taken a couple month off from meeting. September 21st will be our first meeting at 7:00 pm We were going to meet in person but with COVID cases rising this meeting will be via zoom. (Use weekly check in link).

Seven Rivers District UMW Annual Meeting will be September 18th starting at 9:30 am via zoom. We have two speakers. The Keynote speaker will be Rhonda Schneider, Nome AK Community Center. The Guest speaker will Deaconess Ronda Cordill, UMVIM WJ Coordinator. (UMVIM stands for United Methodist Volunteers In Mission. WJ stands for Western Jurisdiction). If you are interested in hearing the speakers let me know (Tressa Cummings), and I will get you a registration paper.

Information about Nome AK Community UMC: Nome Community Center traces its roots to a reindeer-herding project that began in 1906. Mrs. R. H. Young, Bureau Secretary of Alaska, supplied a generous donation to the Women’s Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church to establish a reindeer mission at Sinuk River. The purpose of the mission was to preserve and protect the tradition of reindeer herding. The mission was named the Lavina Wallace Young Mission in honor of its personal benefactor.

In 1911 the reindeer herding project extended from the Sinuk River to Sandspit, a beachfront area of Nome. Two years later, the Young Mission leased the Methodist Church building and opened its doors to the public. Church services, clubs, choirs, classes, workshops, Sunday school, the Epworth League, and recreation programs were among the services provided. The program’s diversity even then is what marked the beginning of shaping the mission towards what it would one day become.

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The Lavina Wallace Young Mission became Nome Community Center in 1970. Although it became an independent agency, Nome Community Center would remain linked to the United Methodist Church through a covenant agreement with the United Methodist Women, and remains a UMW National Mission Institution today.

Community Church was the result of a 1949 union of a white congregation and a Native congregation. Although the congregation has been racially mixed since then, the church celebrated a milestone in July 2013 when the Rev. Charles Brower became the first Alaska Native appointed to Community — or any other United Methodist church in the state.

Because of what people see on TV, they know Nome as a place for Gold Mining and, perhaps, the end of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race each year. And these are both important to the town. They may not know just how important Nome is to the surrounding Native villages and how vital the Native culture is in the community. Along with this, persons may be surprised how the local population spends its summer at family “fish camps” getting their catch for the long winter ahead.

Moreover, homelessness and poverty are constant problems in the community, making the church’s ministry to children so very important for the whole town. The playground at the church helps as well as valuable community gathering spot for young persons. If you would like to read more about the Nome Community UMC - type Nome AK UMC and click on This is Nome Website. The above information came from Nome Community UMC website.

Tressa Cummings

Selah UMW President



Helpers around the church

Thank you to Don and Connie Schramm for overseeing the installation of the new carpet in the Narthex and hallway. Lots of leg work to get it purchased, and installed, including making wood trim for some areas where the base board material would not work. They are still in follow-up mode to deal with a problem with a seam in the middle of the Narthex area that presented a problem and the "fix" made it a bigger issue. Hang tight people we will get it solved somehow.

Thanks to Bob Ruud for all the projects he does around the Church including mowing the lawn each week. His only problem is he keeps finding things that require a bigger fix, but at least that alerts us to be able to solve the issues before real big damage happens. So Bob, THANK YOU...I think!!



Thank you to Bill Walton, who took on the project of getting a plumber in to fix the leaky fixtures in two of the bathrooms. It is amazing what can happen when you know the right people!!

Thank you to Ron and Becky Johnson for their expertise and knowledge of what has gone on for many years at the Church and being able to step in and answer questions of what and where things are and how to approach some of the repairs that are needed.

I am sure there are many others that I am not aware of that do things around the Church so thank you to everyone for helping our Church continue to operate and meet our needs.

Gail Davis



NW United Methodist Foundation Changing Name

On September 1, our organization's name will change from Northwest United Methodist Foundation to Faith Foundation Northwest. Your statements will look different next month with a new logo and a new look on our website and communications.

This change is happening because we know that there's complexity emerging around what it means to be United Methodist, and even what it means to be a church. We are committed to serving all the faith communities we currently work with, which includes you, as well as create space for others. Thank you for your continued trust in us.

While the name will change, the Foundation staff will remain the same, as well as the services we provide. Our portfolios remain the same, and we'll continue partnering closely with Wespath and the annual conferences. Our mission has not changed. Our main priority is to support our communities of faith as they steward God's gifts. We look forward to continuing our service to your faith community, only under a new banner of Faith Foundation Northwest!



September Celebrations

Birthdays

- 4 Breanne Mettie
- 9 Dave Mettie
- 13 Don Chaplin
- 14 Sarah Hoselton
- 15 Jan Towell
- 22 Bryanne Nelson Hoffee
- 29 Lane Brown

Anniversaries

- 16 Don & Gwen Chaplin
- 17 Len and Lynn Hoselton
- 25 Sam & Amber Know
- 31 Dan & Sandy Shelton



FYI – the church has a new email address and it is selahumc@gmail.com

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)



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Spanish Heritage Month, Sept 15 to October 15

- 2 Ladies Circle @ 1:00 pm, Simonson Room
- 5 Sunday worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Communion Sunday 15th Sunday after Pentecost.
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 6 Labor Day Holiday
- 7 Coffee Hour at Sundance Espresso @ 9:00 am
Continuing every Tuesday
- 9 Weekly Check-in @ 10:00 am via Zoom
Continuing every Thursday. **See link on prior page to join via Zoom**
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm, Wandering Hop 508 N 20th Avenue, Yakima
Continuing every Thursday
- 12 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Grandparent's Day; 16th Sunday after Pentecost.
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 14 Worship Team Meeting @ 1:00 pm, Simonson Room
Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom
Use check-in link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 15 Church Council @ 6:00 pm, Simonson Room
- 19 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
17th Sunday after Pentecost. **See link on prior page to join via Zoom**
- 21 UMW Meeting @ 7:00 pm, via Zoom
Use check-in link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 25 Newsletter articles due
- 26 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Holy Baptism; 18th Sunday after Pentecost.
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 28 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom
Use check-in link on prior page to join via Zoom
Camp Hope Dinner, prepared and delivered by Wesley UMC with help from SUMC

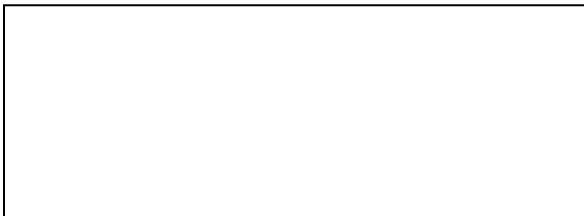
Selah United Methodist Church

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Growing Into the Image of Christ



Newsletter articles for the
October newsletter are due
September 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.”