



# The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

September 2022

## Mark's Remarks



If I were to suggest that you try to imagine God's refrigerator door, some may wonder, "What kind of pastor thinks God needs a refrigerator?" I am willing to concede that maybe God doesn't need a fridge. But I am convinced that God, like everyone else who loves children, has a refrigerator door.

My kids all knew that the refrigerator door was for displaying the expressions of themselves. Once they realized that their daddy was pleased to receive any creative use of their developing talents, they regularly brought their best work to put on display. During the early years it began with a slightly wrinkled piece of paper covered by some seemingly random scribbles with a single crayon. Then came the discovery that more than one color could fit on the page. This led to a vague drawing of people, pets, and things in the natural world. The conversation would go something like this: "*Here Daddy, this is for you.*" "Oh, it's very nice. What is this blue thing here in the middle?" "*That's a tree.*" "This is the nicest blue tree I've ever seen. And this yellow thing above it must be the sun?" "*No. That's a cloud.*" "And the cloud must be yellow because the sun is shining on it?" "*No the cloud is yellow because I like yellow. Now guess who this is.*" A chubby finger pointed to something black and orange below the tree. "Is that a tiger?" "*No it's you and me holding hands and having a picnic under the tree. Can we go on a picnic?*" I would contemplate how we might fit a picnic in the morrow's schedule as I made a show of clearing space for the drawing to be prominently positioned on my refrigerator door with no comparison to the older sibling's poem or the middle sibling's more detailed sketch of a race car. This picnic under a tree on my refrigerator door was the perfect expression of a creative mind wanting to offer their finest work to the father who loved them.

I like to imagine the immensity of God's refrigerator door. It's huge. And it's covered with the offerings of God's children. It's where God receives and displays the creative expression of children whose lives have been touched and shaped by the loving hand of God. My favorite image of worship is a picture of all God's children gathering together to offer the very best gift of themselves to the Creative One whose great love is deserving of our love offered in return.



As we gather each week for worship on Sunday morning, let's remember worship is not something offered to us. Worship is something we offer to God. It is an offering of our selves: our lives, our intentions, our gifts, and our use of all that God has given us. In our worship we offer these to *God*—not to the *church*, or to our *ministries*, but *through* the church and *through* our ministries, to *God*—the One who has given us life and breath. What expression of ourselves and our love can we offer to the One who loves us more than we can begin to imagine? What do we bring for God's refrigerator door? Is it singing a bit more joyfully? Praying and listening with a bit more focus? Giving or serving beyond what's convenient for the sake of returning thanks to God?

Anyone can worship and everyone has something to offer. God's refrigerator door awaits, and God is worth the best we have to offer. So bring your best expression of your best self each Sunday, hold up your hands, and say, "Here Daddy, this is for you."

I'll see you in church,

*Pastor Mark*

## Mission Outreach

Out in the community, it has been speculated, even rumored, that Selah United Methodist Church was closed during the pandemic. **You know we have never closed!** The Selah Food Bank, Rod's House, Camp Hope, and Selah High School each knew we were open and contributing as we always have through those long months of pandemic restrictions.

We are beginning another school year and I think of this time as the renewal of church activities after the summer. We have our new Pastor Mark and Lisa and newer friends attending our Sunday service, so it is good time to remind ourselves of our ongoing community outreach. This reflection of the giving and service outside the church, mirrors the continuous giving and love to our friends within the church: the meals delivered, the cards and phone calls, the lawns mowed, the driveways shoveled, the rides, the friendship.

### Selah Naches Food Bank

The Selah Food Bank began years ago in a small food and clothing distribution room in the Selah Civic Center. The community including grocery stores, SUMC and other churches, have generously supported and donated as the need for food assistance in the area has grown. Last year, Selah and Naches joined forces and became the **Selah Naches Food Bank** serving Selah, Naches and surrounding areas. With that, they have expanded to the much larger open hall of the civic center. Growth continues with plans and fund raising for their own separate building; the hope is that this new food bank,





behind Grocery Outlet, will be open by the Spring 2023. In May, our SUMC congregation with help from UMM donated \$670 to their building fund.

The volunteers at the food bank often help us with suggestions to which our congregation generously responds. We have had a grocery cart in the sanctuary for many years even decades. This month, with the start of a new school year, the volunteers are needing and preparing for increased requests for cereal.

## **SEPTEMBER IS CEREAL MONTH**

(our little Food Pantry really needs cereal, too)

### **Rod's House**



Rod's House will be celebrating 13 years of service to Yakima area teens who are experiencing homelessness. It is a drop-in, safe location in Yakima. Food, snacks, showers, clothes, counseling and respect are all available to those who drop by the big yellow house on Naches Ave. between noon and 6pm. SUMC has been contributing meals and clothing donations for several years. As Meal Partners, SUMC members deliver a meal to feed 35-40 youth on the third Monday of every month. Bob's regular pot of chili has become a big favorite. Gently used clothes and toiletries can be dropped off in the narthex to the box in the corner labeled for Rod's House.

### **Camp Hope**

Camp Hope, located off of Nob Hill behind U-Haul, is a low-barrier, day-time warming station and overnight shelter for homeless men, women, and families. The shelter often houses more than 100 residents and depends on the community for meals. On the fourth Tuesday, meal planning and preparation is in the hands of the Wesley UMC cooks and bakers who plan, prepare and cook for Camp Hope plus Noah's Ark shelter in Wapato. Selah UMC, in a much smaller capacity, provides ingredients and milk as requested and each month has picked up, delivered and served to the 75+ residents in Yakima. For one of the monthly meals, Chuck and his cooking partners have prepared his famous BBQ chicken and beans, a real treat for everyone. The evening of serving, talking and listening to the grateful residents every month is a heartwarming blessing to us, the servers.

### **Selah High School**

Another labeled box sits in the corner of the narthex. This box is for nourishing snacks for the pantry at the high school. Elizabeth, the HS social worker, keeps good food and even



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clothes in her office for students who need some extra help. Last winter, Elizabeth asked us for shoes and a warm jacket for a student in need, and at Christmas, she contacted us about a student who told Elizabeth that her 4 younger sisters would not have Christmas because of hard times. The Ladies Circle and our members donated several hundred dollars to provide food and Christmas for the family with 5 young girls.

### **HENRY BEAUCHAMP COMMUNITY CENTER**

For the past three years, SUMC has collected toys and gift cards for the Community Center Christmas Party and have helped wrapped gifts for the children.

### **PAST ENDEAVORS CLOSED DUE TO COVID THAT WE MISS**

A full weekend at Indian John Rest Area serving free coffee and cookies and smiles for the westbound travelers on I-90

Packing meals for The Backpack Mission, a joint venture with Wesley UMC, at NW Harvest on a Saturday morning

Needless to say, Selah United Methodist Church is always open with generous support for its congregation and the community

## **WORSHIP TEAM REPORT**



The Worship Team met on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the Simonson Room. Margaret Antanaitis opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor Mark talked about his view of worship and some of the things he is interested in doing. He is currently preaching a sermon series on “Prophet Margins” and will be preaching on the Gospel in the Fall. He is getting to know the people and the building and is challenging us to look at the Sanctuary through the eyes of a visitor. What do we notice? Is it clean? Are there cobwebs? What need to change to make it more appealing? There was a suggestion that we move the pews and risers from the old choir loft and free up some space in the Chancel. The pews could be used for a chapel in one of the rooms at the back of the building.

He also challenged us to be aware of strangers around us and spoke of a family who worshiped with us who had three children who came forward for the children’s time, but they left after the service, and no one found out who they were. We need to do a better job of contacting visitors.

The sink in the Sacristy has been dripping and has corroded a Communion tray. We discussed Communion, and whether to continue to use the prepared “kits” or to return to



traditional ritual using bread and the common cup. We are exploring getting gluten-free bread to use for everyone, so that people who need gluten-free aren't being treated differently. It needs to be sturdy enough so that it doesn't end up at the bottom of the cup. Gail Davis is going to get a carpet runner to protect from drops of grape juice during Communion.

Elaine Dow witnessed a young girl who got excited when offered an activity bag and hoped that she got to take it home with her. We will talk to someone about the possibility of making some bags that we can send home with children.

We will be celebrating "Back to School" on August 28<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping that everyone will invite students, teachers, and anyone else who works with the schools, to join us for worship that day.

There will be no Blessing of the Beasts this year. This was an event that was discarded during COVID. Pastor Mark is thinking of doing that at a different time of the year, such as near the feast of St. Francis.

The next meeting of the Worship Team will be September 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the Simonson Room. The meetings are open to anyone who is interested in contributing to worship at Selah UMC.

Kevin Dow

## Selah United Women in Faith

Selah United Women of Faith are ready to get back together starting September 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm via Zoom. (we will use the meeting link on page 8 of the newsletter).



In July we hosted the Pacific Northwest Conference United Women of Faith Officers. They used the upper Room for the meeting space. Selah UWF served lunch, dinner, and breakfast breads to 14 Conference officers. A big thank you! To all who helped with set up and some additional cleaning.

Special UWF recognition pin for was presented to Lois Cummings Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> during the church service. Lois has been a member of the Selah UWF since the 1980's. She has taken on several leadership roles serving as secretary, program chairman, as well as lending a helping hand in the fundraising and outreach projects.

Congratulations! Lois

Tressa Cummings  
Selah United Women in Faith President





## BSA Troop #275

Boy Scout Troop 275 has been chartered through the Selah United Methodist Church for over 55 years. It's sad to see Troop 275 will not renew its charter. Several issues led to this difficult decision. The Cub Scout Pack disbanded several years ago which, was very important in feeding the Boy Scouts with new members. Also, many established youth organizations are seeing declining membership as interests change and new youth organizations and sports compete for members.

The SUMC and Boy Scout Troop 275 should be very proud of their 55 plus years of association. Hundreds of young men, ages 11 through 17, passed through this program and they all learned important life lessons, including many whose families were part of the SUMC congregation. Out of this group dozens made the rank of Eagle.

An important part of earning the rank of Eagle is the Eagle Scout Project. Selah UMC benefited directly from these projects including a newspaper recycling bin, small storage building, playground big toy, playground concrete pad, playground fence, and fire pit gathering area. The surrounding community also benefited from these projects including a trail creek ford, trail creek bridge, wildlife habitat restoration, Naches Pegasus project support, Cowiche Canyon fencing, Buddy Benches for Wapato schools, Record Board for the Selah Dolphins swim team, landscaping work near Harlan Landing, and a timber picnic table on Chinook Pass. These projects are from the past 35 years and do not include projects performed prior to that.

Troop #275, held their final Eagle Scout Court of Honor at the church on Wednesday, August 10. Colin Thomas, Michael Ozanich, and Randall Hall (bottom row



in picture, left to right) were officially recognized for earning their Eagle rank this past year. Family members and friends were present to celebrate their achievement of Scouting's highest award. A dessert potluck and slideshow followed the ceremony. During the evening's celebration, John Baranowsky, currently serving as Assistant Scoutmaster, was recognized for his 35 years of continuous service to the troop. Also recognized were Scoutmaster Brent Ozanich and Troop Committee Chair Scott Willey (top row in picture, left to right). This gathering marked the

conclusion of a long-standing partnership between Troop #275 and Selah United Methodist Church. The last official action of Troop #275's members was to donate remaining funds in their treasury to the church. In recognition and celebration of our support of the Troop, the church was presented with a check for \$500. Be sure and checkout bulletin board display in honor of the troop.



## TO BE OR NOT TO BE A RECONCILING CHURCH



*We celebrate god's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared 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.*

The above is the wording that will be used as part of our Mission Statement, should we elect to become a reconciling church.

A refrain I continue to hear is “we already have a Mission Statement that welcomes all, why do we need the reconciling wording?”. We used Jennifer’s story in the Feb. Newsletter to highlight why our approach doesn’t work and would further point out that her story is just one of countless similar stories. And finding out that a “welcoming church” isn’t exactly welcoming isn’t confined to just the LGBTQ community. There are ‘welcoming’ churches where woman are limited to secondary roles, where immigrants aren’t tolerated, the homeless shall not enter, and if you’re a cohabitating unmarried couple, you had better be tying the knot soon, or you’ll be made to feel unwelcome.

“But I don’t like putting people into groups” is another refrain I’ve heard since we began our discussion of the reconciling concept. Simply put, people are grouped as a means of identification: short, tall; white, black etc.. And, identifying specific types of people by group, for the purposes of hate and derision, has been coin of the realm for many, many decades; their identity is well established. Is our identifying these same groups, in the reconciling wording, going to draw unwanted attention to them? Is our telling these groups of marginalized peoples, we embrace them, drawing unwanted attention? Somehow, I don’t believe so. All of the previous Newsletter articles regarding the reconciling church are on the bulletin board; if you haven’t read them, please stop by and take a look.

Ron Drew



## Book Bunch

The Book Bunch members are going to expand their culinary skills at a pie baking class. The class will be held at the church on Sunday, September 18th following the worship service. Our own Glennis Wilson has volunteered to be the Master Chef!

Currently, the group is reading "The Potluck Catering Club: A Taste of Fame" and in October will read the critically acclaimed "Sugar Birds: A Novel," set in Washington state. Regular meetings are held remotely via Zoom (use meeting link at bottom of this page), typically on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7 PM. To learn more about Book Bunch, get in touch with Lee Hamilton.

## 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 & Lynn Hoselton
- 25 Sam & Amber Knox
- 31 Dan & Sandy Shelton

### 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)

### ONLINE MEETING LINK

**Join Zoom:**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/669186246?pwd=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbmlNQ09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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





## ***SEPTEMBER CALENDAR***

- 1 Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 pm Simonson Room  
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 4 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Holy Communion; 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 5 Labor Day; office closed
- 7 Coffee Hour @ 9:30 am at Sundance Espresso; Continuing every Wednesday  
Worship Team Meeting @ 1:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 11 United Methodist Men Breakfast @ 8:00 am in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost See link on prior page to join via Zoom  
National Grandparent's Day
- 13 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom  
Use meeting link on prior page
- 18 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost See link on next page to join via Zoom  
Book Bunch Pie Baking after worship in Kitchen/Fellowship Hall
- 20 United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) @ 7:00 pm via Zoom  
Use meeting link on prior page
- 21 Church Council meeting @ 6:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 22 First Day of Autumn
- 25 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost See link on prior page to join via Zoom  
**Newsletter articles due**
- 27 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

**Selah United Methodist Church**

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Newsletter articles for the  
October newsletter are due  
September 25

Articles can be emailed to  
[bjoh461@fairpoint.net](mailto: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.”