

THE HEART BEAT

SERVING PEOPLE FROM THE HEART OF SILVERDALE

Silverdale United Methodist Church : Newsletter : Issue 1 : March 2016

upcoming **EVENTS**



MARCH

2ND—TRUSTEES
3RD—ALS
4TH & 5TH—CHRISTIAN DEBATES
9TH—FINANCE
11TH - 13TH—GREAT WITNESS
WEEKEND
16TH—SPR
19TH—VERNADINE MEMORIAL
20TH—PALM SUNDAY
25TH—GOOD FRIDAY
27TH—EASTER/ EASTER BRUNCH

God is BIG



My Marriage vows say, "I promise to be your wife in the Lord, no matter the stresses of the present or the uncertainty of the future, I promise to be faithful to you and to serve and obey you as the leader of our Christian home..." Let me be the first to say that after 10 years of marriage, I'm still trying to figure out exactly what I promised before God, friends and family. It sounded good then and I believe I whole heartedly meant it to the best of my ability.

I have known God for a long time. My whole life I was taken to church, I told the what-to-do and what-not-to-dos of being a "Christian." I sat around a campfire the summer after fourth grade at church camp and felt a tingly sensation as tears streamed down my face and I knew Jesus owned my heart. However, I was 19 when I met him for real and fell in love in a way I never thought possible. I call that year the honeymoon phase of my walk. All these promises I made to God, albeit well intended, but I rarely followed through. I fell in love with the fact that He loved me. I loved him alright, but I didn't love him back the way I should have. For the past two years though and by no strength or revelation of

Let's rewind... about 4 years ago now, my husband Jesse was called into vocational pastoral ministry. I however, did not receive the same call when he did and was adamant that he misunderstood. Through diligent prayer and patience, Jesse asked the Lord to tell me when it was time to move forward. Jesse knew that the Lord had made me his partner and would bring me into the call when the time was right. Romans 8:28 became a powerful part of our story then. Remember my wedding vows? Here I am, elbow deep in life with three kids age five and under. I'm trying not to drown in grown-up responsibilities and my husband tells me he feels led to go back to school and eventually leave his well-paying and secure job. I knew that he misunderstood God's call, I just knew it! I *knew nothing*. So here I am, reflecting on the past couple of years with the Lord. My husband is almost finished with his degree and is pursuing ordained ministry with the UMC. Seminary is in the near future. God did tell me when it was time. Not only did God tell me when it was time, but he also has made the path very clear and straight, which he promises. I have been serving as the Pastoral Assistant here at SUMC for three years. In that time, God has been at work softening and molding me into the woman he made me to be. God is bigger than ever for me. God truly does work all things out for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose. All this sounds and feels so amazing. God is getting bigger. Then it hits me like a ton of bricks. I read Romans 9 and see it anew. I read commentaries and listen to messages by people who are way smarter and far more studied about the Bible than I am. For affirmation I read 2 Timothy 3:16 which says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness..." I believe this scripture to be fundamental in the Christian faith. Even if my tiny human heart and mind doesn't like it, I resolve to trust God. I have no choice. He is God and I am not. If you're like me, a whole lot of "what-ifs" flood through when you read the tougher I say that God is BIG and that sounds like a "duh" statement. Of course God is big! If we trust that Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, we know God is big.

The more I read and learn about who Jesus through the whole of Scripture and not just his life in the new testament I continue to see the Rock that is Christ spread wide.

God's plan is perfect. I believe that with my whole heart. My faith is not my own. It is a gift. Ephesians tells me that I have been blessed with EVERY spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, I was chosen in HIM before the foundation of the world and that I was pre-destined to be his. By grace through faith, that is not my own and is a gift from God. I still can hardly wrap my limited mind around that magnificent truth. After all who am I that the Lord that created the UNIVERSE, knows my name. That He *chose* me to be His. stuff in scripture. For example, "why Jacob and not Esau?" Where I am discovering that God is bigger than I ever imagined, is found in the gold of Romans 9: 19-23, "you will say to me then, 'Why does he still find fault? For who can resist God's will?' But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, 'Why have you made me like this?' Has the potter no right over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? What if God desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory." I know this, God is sovereign, his will is perfect and his Word is without error. I may not completely understand what He is doing or why, but I am learning that God is most definitely who he says he is, and he is BIG. Furthermore, he has always done as he promises. For you Beth Moore fans, that is "present-active-participle" faithfulness.

I trust God. I may not see his plan unfolded before me as Jesse plans to leave a well-paying job with benefits and security to follow Jesus and be in full-time pastoral ministry which can be unpredictable. I am learning what it means to be led spiritually by my husband who is the leader of our Christian home. I am along in this calling believing God through the process, because God is faithful. He has made known to me just how big he really is and I have faith in his plans because they have and will work out for the good because we love him and are called according to his purpose.



for information about how to share your STORY in the

HEARTBEAT please contact SUMC@SILVERDALE-UMC.ORG



March 21st—Carl & Marilyn Olsen 57 years!



What's in a Nursery? At Silverdale United Methodist Church, we take pride in our children and our youth. We stand beside them. Encouraging them as they grow as individuals and as lovers of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a fact that children learn through play. With this fact in mind, we've created an environment that promotes both play and learning. The Newly designed nursery room and program incorporates bible truths, devotional time and prayer into familiar activities, songs and games. The children have been open and receptive to the program thus far. We plan to add new activities as the year goes on. Want to know how you can help? If you are a parent, each week you receive a letter that shares what we've learned. Keep it! Read it! Use it!

The nursery program can plant the seed but you as parents must water it. Ultimately, God makes those seeds sprout into beautiful beings



but we must do our part. If you are not a parent, there are tons of things you can do to help! We are always accepting donations for sealed snacks, juice boxes, disinfectant wipes, tissue boxes, baby wipes, and hand sanitizer. One of the largest ongoing needs for the Nursery is for volunteers! You do not have to be a parent or even experienced. The only requirement to be a volunteer at SUMC is a contagious love for Jesus and a desire to spread that love. Information about our nursery program or how to become a volunteer is always available outside of room 107. You are also welcome to email Lydia with any questions! May God bless you and keep you, always.



The SUMC Hospitality Committee coordinates the Sunday Morning Social / Potluck after Worship each week and special events such as Easter Brunch, Summer BBQ's, Christmas Love Baskets, and Christmas Dinner. The group also hosts kitchen cleaning work parties a couple of times per year.

Hospitality Cont'd : In addition there is an important subgroup that keeps the Food Bank operational. We would like to put together another subgroup of people to call on for helping with memorial services. How you can get involved?

⇒ Bring a food to share once a month for Sunday Morning Social / Potluck after Worship. No need to sign-up to do this, just bring something when you feel led.

⇒ Contact Chris Wyatt at cusatenko@gmail.com or 697-5455 to volunteer to be on the list for helping with memorial services, or food bank.

⇒ Volunteer to help with special events and cleaning work parties -look for sign-up sheets in the social hall a few weeks prior to each event.



This month the committee had two new hardware items installed for SUMC ministries. First, a large screen monitor was installed in the sanctuary and is now operational on the balcony wall for the pastor and praise team to be able to view songs and materials that are projected on the two front screens. The second item is a flat screen TV and DVD player that has been installed for use in the children's nursery. The committee is also looking to form a group of people who would like to help with operation of the sound and video equipment during Sunday services. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Don Cosner or Gary Wright.



The Staff/Pastor Parish Committee is the committee that works with congregants, staff, and the Pastor in areas and issues concerning SUMC. They create job descriptions, oversee staff reviews, and address any and all concerns that are brought to the committee from the congregation. One of the most important things SPRC does is to make sure staff and the Pastor maintain a work/life balance and are seeking God. We meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Respectfully submitted by Debi Rickabaugh, chairperson



The 2016 Board of Trustees is off to a great start this year. The group is fully staffed at nine people and also has a new chairperson. The 2016 Trustees are: Dennis Rickabaugh (chairperson), Terry Holt (secretary), Mark Eyer, Richard Lee, Jeanine Hurst, Roger Afalla, Rudy Arcega, Byron McConnell, and Ferdi-

nand Sabas. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance of church facilities, including the parsonage, and all associated contracts the church enters into. Since our buildings are older, there is always much work to be done.

Along with the Trustee membership there are some other hard working individuals that give their time each week to our church and accomplish an incredible amount of work. These unsung heroes are: Bill Seelow, Carl Olson, Bob Rosas, Billy Wages, Alan Hunt, & Harold Frost. They have had their hands in almost all projects that have been going on in recent years. Some of the highlights are the new security gates in the stairways of the education wing, the new security gate in the office, the painting of the classrooms upstairs, and painting and installing the new carpet in the new nursery. They are always doing something for our church!! Carl still spends his time maintaining the churches gardens and flowerbeds too.

Since this year started there have been some much needed improvements done at the church that you may not know about. The new infant room in the nursery is nearing completion, the roof leak in the kitchen is finally fixed, the Emma Linn room roof leak is fixed, a warning light system has been installed in the west wing for the severe weather shelter, the replacement of all the old base board heaters is nearing completion (thanks to Terry Holt!!), and an exterior door has been repaired after being broken for an extended time. There is always work to do! Please report any facilities concerns you may have to one of your nine Trustees and the item will be brought to the board for remedy.

Daylight savings begins
on March 13th.



Turn your clocks forward
Saturday night.

to the
for rem-



Easter is almost here already, and all our Sunday school children are doing lessons about Jesus that lead up to Easter, although there are no Sunday school classes meeting on Easter Sunday itself. The preschool and kindergarten children will learn how Jesus revealed himself as the Son of God before the events of Holy Week and Good Friday, and how Jesus was alive again on Easter morning. Their Bible verse is "You are the Christ. You are the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16, NIRV). Did you know that the preschool and kindergarteners have learned over 15 songs this year and they can sing them all?

Our older children, in grades 1 & 2, will learn, "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it." (Acts 2:32) If your child is in grade 3,4, or 5, ask him or her to tell you the Bible memory verse they are learning. You can see more of what our Sunday school classes are doing on the bulletin board in the hallway opposite the nursery.

We are excited about Palm Sunday, not just because we get to come into the worship service carrying palms and singing praise to God, but also because that Sunday, March 20th, is "Bring a Buddy Day"! We are sending home notes for our Sunday school children to use to invite a special friend or friends to Sunday school on Palm Sunday. Will you help our Sunday school children to welcome their friends to Sunday school? Both the bringer and the brought will receive special treats.

And remember, adults can and should attend one of the adult classes while their children are attending Sunday school from 9:00 - 10:30, before the worship service. That will set a good example for the children and possibly enable the whole family to discuss Bible lessons learned on Sunday.



You are invited...

Could you spare 2-3 hours to help us get our SUMC kitchen spotlessly clean? Come join our cleaning party on Saturday, April 9, 9 a.m. to Noon. Coffee and snacks provided. Hope to see you there!
Your Hospitality Committee

Join Us for Easter Brunch and Worship Service on March 27!

Invite your family and friends to join you at SUMC for Easter Brunch. Food will be served from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., then continue visiting with friends and family until the Worship Service at 10:30. The Hospitality Committee will be providing ham, baked omelets, hash brown casseroles, hard cooked eggs, fruit, a variety of pastries, and beverages. Come and fellowship before an amazing time of worship! If you would like to help with Easter Brunch, there will be a sign-up clip board in the Social Hall

HALLOWED GROUNDS CAFÉ

A huge 'thank you' to those who responded with a donation to support Hallowed Ground café. Our need is ongoing. It takes \$1000 a month for us to operate. Something to think about....we would be fully funded if

10 people gave \$100 a month
OR 20 people gave \$50 a month
OR 50 people gave just \$20 a month OR a combination of some from each option. To donate just note on the memo line of your check " For HGC" or put some cash in an envelope marked "HGC". Our desire is to serve God by helping others. Thank you for your part in this ministry!

Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School
2016- July 25th -
29th

Kids preschool through grade 6 get ready to Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love!!! This year we're centered on just how much we're loved by God! Come on out to have fun and learn more about Jesus and his love for us! Remember the Lord is great and awesome!



We are excited about what the Lord is doing at SUMC in the prayer ministry! He specifically told us to start an adult Sunday School class about prayer (which we did: Conversations with God in the Emma Linn Room 9am Sundays), and to start Sunday Night prayer times (which we did: every Sunday evening at 6pm.) This is in addition to Altar Prayer Team for Sunday morning service, Wednesday Morning Prayer Time in the prayer room, and the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is very active and is lead by Donna Kirkpatrick 360 981-2701. We send out emails of prayer requests as needed to a large list of praying people. If you wish to be part of this ministry, please contact Donna Kirkpatrick. There will be a Prayer Chain meeting of all the people who receive emails for the prayer chain on Sunday March 13 at 7pm, right after the 6pm Prayer Service. Please come if you are involved with this ministry.

Wednesday morning prayer time: you are welcome to come and pray with us at 9:30am, you don't need experience to join us! If you wish to be prayed for, please come after 10:30am. Contact Shirley Thiel for further information 360 698-0567, or contact Kerri in the church office.

Sunday Morning Altar Prayer Team is a group of trained praying people who are available for short, individual prayer at altar time during the service.

Sunday Night Prayer Service is lead by Pastor Larry Eddings and meets at 6pm. This is a more informal service, where Ruth Brown graciously leads us in worship, Pastor Larry and various others teach, and we all join in prayer (or listening to prayer) after the teaching. Currently we are diving deep into the Lord's Prayer through Pastor Larry's teaching.

Conversations With God is an adult Sunday School Class focused on prayer Sundays at 9am in the Emma Linn Room. Whether you are a seasoned prayer warrior or a brand new praying person, there is something in this class for you. Sunday March 6 we will learn about prayers of blessing. Sunday March 13, Shelli Walker will share with us what the children are learning about prayer, the material that Audrey Eddings wrote. Come and learn about what our children are learning so that you can talk with them about this important part of their lives! You are welcome to come and participate in this class as often as you can make it, we have coffee for those who need it! We encourage you to join one or more of these opportunities to pray with your brothers and sisters! You don't need experience, you can learn with us (none of us has "arrived"! This is your invitation. You will be blessed, we will be blessed.



Wesleyan Covenant Connection

Many books have been written about Spiritual leadership and many lengthy seminars have been held on the subject. But, Spiritual leadership is simply acting under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. For a Christian this sounds very basic, so why don't we function as

spiritual leaders more? Perhaps because we are in the habit of giving in to "other" influences. The battle of influences is revealed in these kind of statements:

1. I don't have the qualifications, skills, etc to be a spiritual leader. (God has given every believer work and skills to serve Him)
2. This is my job; I don't need to ask for directions every ten minutes. (Human nature loves to do it "my" way; the Holy Spirit led person is eager to learn.)
3. The system, organization, state or whoever, will take care of this need. (Jesus told his disciples "you serve them.")
4. I don't have time to pray about this...I will just take care of it. (God provides us with time as well as everything else that we need for service.)

The scenarios above are familiar, and there are many more ways that the battle is visible. But, what trips us up most often is failing to trust that Jesus can and will meet the need, solve the problem, and keep His promises. If we believe that Jesus is the Son of the most High God then we should trust Him.

So how do we fight this battle? By practicing these four things:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to do in everything!
2. Ask Jesus to give you the courage to obey the Holy Spirit.
3. Act promptly in obedience.
4. Encourage each other to trust Jesus.

This battle is important because it establishes our connection to Christ. When we win this battle we win a full and vibrant personal life infused with everything that Christ is offering us. It's important because it forms close connections in the Body of Christ and makes Jesus more visible here on earth. It's important in order to bring Glory to God! Katherine Cosner, Chair Wesleyan Covenant Connection



send Good News
and Great Joy
**OPERATION
CHRISTMAS
CHILD**

Having an opportunity to introduce the love of Jesus Christ to so many children around the world is such a blessing. Filling a simple shoe box is just the beginning. Our prayer is that each child accepts their invitation to a 12 week class to learn about Jesus Christ, the son of God. Last year SUMC's goal was to collect 200 boxes and we exceeded that goal. See stats below:-SUMC 284 boxes -Olympic/Kitsap Penn. and Bainbridge 11,168 boxes - N.W. Region 298,748 boxes -U.S. 8,765,637 boxes - International 11,213,010 boxes (to 130 countries) PRAISING GOD FOR SUCH FAITHFULNESS! Please continue to save all year long. When cleaning and organizing, remember that even the smallest little thing means a lot to a child who has nothing. Bring your items to Gloria Lee to store if you'd like; and we will fill shoe boxes in Nov. Also, please bring me shoe boxes. We needed x-tras last year. Again, thank you for loving these children through your prayers and giving a simple shoe box gift. Any question please call Rick or Gloria Lee at 692-2596.

Lydia's Community

women discipling women and enhancing one another's faith

Ladies welcome to Lydia's Community, the women's ministry of Silverdale United Methodist Church. We are women on the mission of Jesus Christ. We endeavor to live authentically together by pursuing each other through relationships, being patient with one another in love, counseling biblically all because of our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. We are sister's in Christ. This is a place for all women to come and be together and become the best woman in Christ we can be. For more information like us on facebook: *Lydia's Community SUMC Women* or email Debi Rickabaugh @ debirick1@hotmail.com



SUMC has long supported missions—at home and around the world. We are led by a 19 member team from our church who plans and organizes mission-related events and allocates our limited resources in support of missions. We support local missionaries who are serving full and part-time in many other countries and in local ministries.

Our Church also supports the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Campaign. If you were at church last Sunday, you heard Sadie Walker and Denisa Paraschiv speak about the great disaster relief work that UMCOR does around the world, in part due to funds raised by OGHS. On March 6 we will each have an opportunity to contribute financially to this effort during the service.

On March 13 Cheryl (Dickerhoof) and Bob Fox, Bremer-ton residents and former members of our congregation, will speak to us at a luncheon following the service about their commitment and plans to serve the Lord in the very poor country of Niger in the African Sahara. Come join us for a tasty meal typical of Niger, hear about their training and plans, and support them in this endeavor.

Meanwhile chocolate fudge was sold on Valentines day to benefit Haiti Orphanage children. And Jeremy and Joy Ellington are in town for a short time. Jeremy grew up in part at SUMC and he and Joy have built a thriving church and mission program in rural India. We will do an event to support them later this summer.

On April 23 we will hold our annual Auction and Hors d'oeuvres event to support Gaisini Compassionate Ministries (GCM) and their work building a church and providing critical services in rural Romania. Join us for a fun evening and great ministry opportunity..

There is more in April: Larry and Mary Eyer are traveling to India to support the Ellingtons during Vacation Bible School. In May we will sell Mother's Day cards for Missions and then on Fathers Day we will prepare a delicious breakfast to support Jane and Marvin Elliot and their work at a Christian orphanage in Haiti.

Missions cont'd

There is much more but we will save that for the next newsletter. Meanwhile, if you have questions feel free to contact any of our team members: Gloria and Rick Lee, Sadie Walker, Nick Brown, Shelli Walker, Steve Lee, Rupert and Ani Walworth, Denisa Praschiv, Marvin and Jane Elliot, Steve and Melanie Lee, Ken and Sherrie Koellermeier, Shirley Chaffee, Grace Pugh, and Mary and Larry Eyer...and join us in supporting efforts to serve Christ throughout the world.



The Blessing of Giving

1 Timothy 6:17-19

THE MORE SKILLED YOU ARE AT A TASK, the more you enjoy it. When an orchestra adeptly plays a masterpiece, an accomplished musician will derive greater pleasure from listening than would a person with an untrained ear. You might be surprised to learn the same is true of giving.

God has many reasons for us to give. **First**, returning a portion of our wealth to the Lord acknowledges that everything actually belongs to Him (Ps.50:10). **Second**, giving is a way to demonstrate that we are obeying Him (Deut.16:17). **Third**, contributing to a ministry or helping the needy is participation in kingdom work, which brings us deep joy. **Fourth**, our offerings are an opportunity for God to reveal His character to us and those around us; as we demonstrate generosity, He faithfully provides for our needs and blesses us abundantly (2 Cor.9:8). Over and over again, the saying "You can't outgive God" proves true.

Giving involves more than our money. God has blessed us with talents, time, and resources—along with plenty of opportunities to share them with others. It's important to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance to know what, to whom, and how much we should give. Remember, the Lord is continuously giving to us: **salvation, comfort, encouragement, life, and countless other blessings.** We're indebted to Him and should give back, not out of obligation but with a heart of gratitude and joy (2 Cor. 9: 7). Ask God to reveal any selfishness or other hindrance to sharing—and to help you become more skilled at giving.