

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of  
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



Where are We?

October 2020

We're over six months into this pandemic and church closure and we find ourselves wondering where we are and where we may be heading. These are uncertain times for sure and the lack of leadership and direction on all levels has been astounding as we face a threat that cannot be seen and is difficult to control. At times it seems as if we are left to our own design and resourcefulness. Six months ago I wasn't sure where we'd be or even if we'd still be here and yet, here we are.



LIVE

On Monday, September 21st I had a Zoom Clergy Consultation with our District Superintendent

J. Mark Galang. His first question was whether or not I was getting any support from my congregation during this shutdown. I told him that I have received quite a bit of support in the form of cards, phone calls, emails and the occasional drop in from someone who wanted to check on me or just get out of the house. I also took the opportunity to tell him that our volunteers have been very helpful working from home making soup, sending out cards and making calls to the church family. And, I have gotten some very positive feedback from people who have received a card or a call.

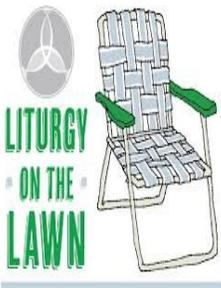
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He asked about our Sunday worship and what we were doing. I told him we struggled early on trying to educate ourselves on the technology and making it work for our congregation. I described our blended effort of presenting a Facebook Live service every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. for those who do Facebook. I told him the service was then posted to the church webpage for those with a computer who don't do Facebook to watch later. I told him that after the service I also emailed a copy of the sermon text to those who just wanted to read the sermon. On Monday mornings, I told him, I mail out several copies of the sermon to those who aren't connected to the internet. He seemed impressed and remarked that what we were doing was more than some churches were doing and that some churches weren't doing anything. My response was that someone should show them how.

I told him about the homeless-in-vehicle woman who came by one Sunday morning asking for assistance and then asking to come in for the service. I explained to her that I was under strict orders from the Bishop not to let anyone in, which was very difficult for me to do. I asked the District Superintendent how others churches were handling these situations and he said it was the first he had heard of it. He seemed more surprised that we were gathering as a team on Sunday morning at the regular time to do a Facebook Live service. Apparently many of the churches are taping a service during the week and broadcasting it on Sunday morning. In a follow-up email I told him that I liked the spontaneity of our services where you get the mistakes, goofs and gaffs plus the live interaction with the viewing congregation who text in their comments, joys and prayer concerns.



I then got around to asking him about resuming in-person worship. He said the Bishop still had us in Phase Two and was very reluctant to move to the next phases allowing in-person worship. He related a story of how a pastor got Covid from a family member and that the Bishop was concerned about pastors infecting the congregation. I explained that there were several churches in our immediate

(Continued from page 2)

area that were holding in-person worship and that I've been watching the new cases and none have been traced back to a church service. I also told him that Jefferson County was almost at zero cases per 100,000. (We have since reached that goal.) In any event, he said that if we wanted to put together a proposal for in-person worship and send it to him he would present it to the Bishop.

I concluded our conversation saying that I would like to see the Methodist Church take a stand on some of these Social Justice issues we are seeing played out on the evening news. I told him that the church needs to come out publicly as people need to know where we stand and that I had recently preached a sermon on what our Book of Discipline says about Social Justice and being engaged in the effort. He asked for a copy of the sermon which I emailed to him.

Apparently, I have the right to remain silent, just not the ability. Anyway, the reason I think we are still here is that we are engaged, concerned and committed. For that, I thank you for your continued support and prayers. It will be interesting to see where we are six months from now. I'm confident we'll be here. I'm just excited to see in what form our "new" church will be.

Thankful for the peace that passes all understanding,

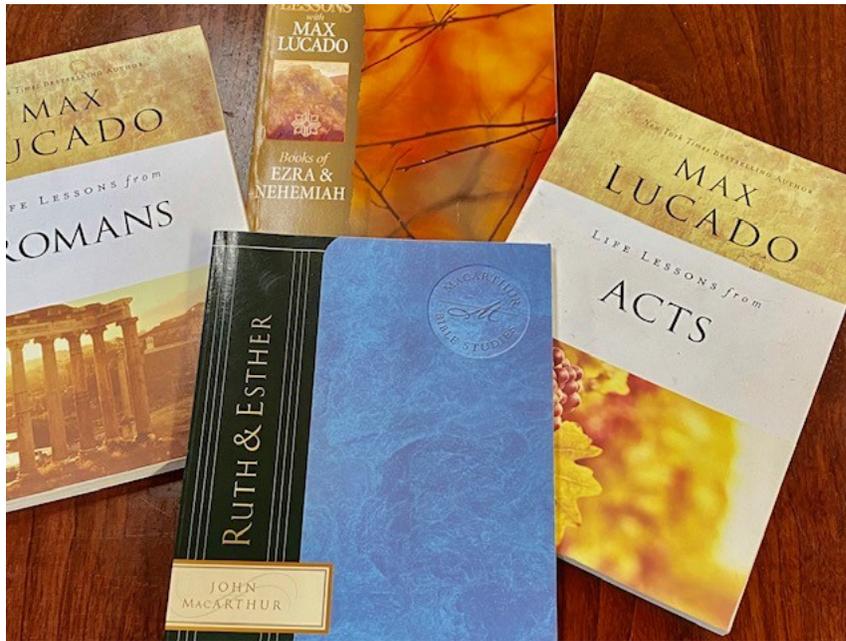


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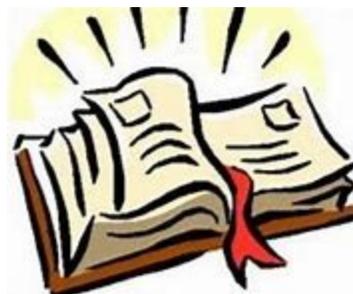
Scott

# HOME BIBLE STUDY

By Scott Rosekrans; Photo by Scott Rosekrans



Have you read everything in the house twice? Can't find anything at Goodwill to read? Thinking about picking up a copy of Crime and Punishment? Well we have a deal for you. We have all these great Bible Studies in our library that are just waiting to be taken home and read. What a great way to deepen your knowledge of the Bible and strengthen your faith. Each study takes a book of the Bible and breaks it down into twelve lessons with questions to consider. You can go at your own pace doing one a week or a couple a week. We even have enough where you could pair up with a partner or two and do your own little group study. So, if you're interested give me a call or send me an email and I'll tell you what we have and then send it to you, or you can come by and pick one out yourself.

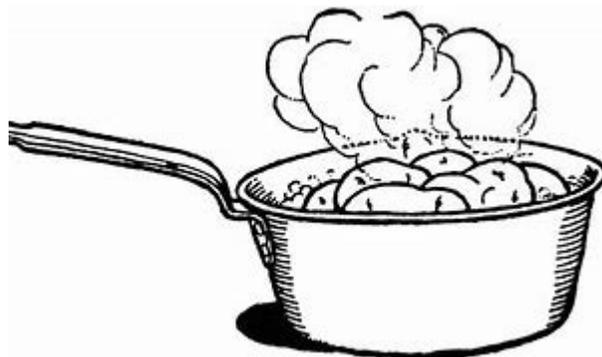




## A Meaningful Ministry

By Scott Rosekrans

Our thanks to our very own Jean Holtz for these cool little camp stoves. Jean makes them at home out of #10 metal cans, fashions a grill, attaches a handle, and includes a metal cup, a bag of firestarters, and a medicine bottle containing an emery board and kitchen matches. Jean started making them some time ago through her work with Vet Connect and asked if I could hand some out to the homeless that come to the church for assistance. I readily agreed and have handed out several. The men and women who get them are very appreciative, and having the ability to warm up your food or make a cup of tea or coffee is huge. Thanks Jean for this simple yet meaningful ministry and allowing us to share in your love and generosity.





CUMC supports three local organizations: OlyCAP, Tri-Area Food Bank and ECHHO. We donate a minimum of \$100 each month to one of these three organizations in addition to donations collected from membership. In 2019 CUMC will begin donating \$100 each month to UMCOR as well to aid in natural disaster relief efforts. Following is the donation schedule for 2019 and the total amount donated each month:

# 2020

January:	ECHHO	\$ 88.33
February:	Food Bank	\$238.00
March:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
April:	ECHHO	\$300.00
May:	Food Bank	\$275.00
June:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
July:	ECHHO	\$666.67
August	Food Bank	\$307.32
September	OlyCAP	\$275.00
October	ECHHO	\$941.67
November	Food Bank	
December	OlyCAP	

## FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

09/30/20	2020 year to date
Income	\$89,745.32
Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$74,447.00
Other Income	\$15,298.21
Expenses	\$92,344.43
Apportionments	\$13,735.30
Local Ministry	\$7,079.98
Operation Expenses	\$38,360.55
Personnel Expenses	\$33,168.60
Surplus/(Deficit)	<b>(-\$2,599.22)</b>

# Doing Church

By Scott Rosekrans; photo by Scott Rosekrans

I was recently having a conversation with a couple of ladies who dropped in for a cabin fever visit. I enjoy these little visits as they help me stay connected with my church family, and sometimes I learn something meaningful. One of the ladies, who truly misses her church family, asked when I thought she and everyone else could return to church. I told her I understood and wished myself for the day when we could all gather together for church. The other lady adroitly pointed out that we are “doing” church. I was taken aback. She was right, we were doing church, just not in a larger gathering. We were doing it two or three people at a time like when Jesus said in Matthew 18: 20; *For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.*



Nice visit with Bernita Butler and Ruth Altis .

Since the start of the pandemic when many churches locked their doors and sent their pastors home to self-quarantine, I chose to keep regular office hours. I didn't want Community to be known as the church that closed its doors until further notice. We still had church to do. Initially, I found it easier to come in on Monday morning to begin researching and writing my sermon for the upcoming Sunday as there were fewer distractions. And I am easily distracted, as I have self-described myself as the golden retriever of pastors who would rather chase a tennis ball than anything else. But as people learned we were open things started to pick up, and what I used to get done in a day and a half stretched into three days. For lack of a better term, I began to experience distractions and interruptions. I soon realized that these interruptions and distractions were a blessing, a new way of doing church.

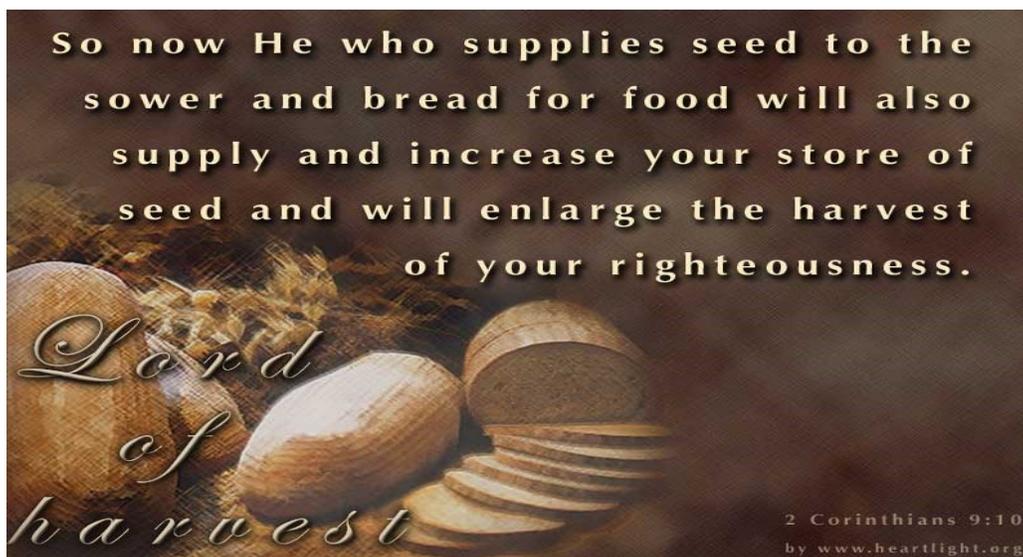


Various volunteers would show up to pick up soup making supplies to take home in an effort to continue our soup ministry where we provide individual bags of soup mix to the food banks. A couple of members volunteered to send our cards and then two more volunteered to make phone calls to church family members just to check up on them and stay in touch. A few more got together and put a plan together to go to the food banks and help register people to vote. What a great idea and I got some really good feedback on our effort. A couple of volunteers come in regularly to keep our clothes closet in order for those individuals who come in for clothing and other items. Another blessing-distraction. We have some very generous folks who give a little extra so we can continue funding our mission efforts. And, we have our dedicated Sunday morning worship team consisting of our accompanist, bass player, camera operator and volunteer liturgists who work together to put out a pretty decent service. There are others, but I think you get the idea. New ideas are being formulated all the time like our soon-to-be created Social Justice Committee where we'll take a more proactive approach in some of the issues facing our community and beyond. And, just this week, we created a food pantry for those who come by that just need a little food to hold them over until they can get to the food bank or get their next check. And then there are the least, the last and the lost who know we're open and come to us for assistance and are so grateful for what we are willing and able to do just because we care.

So no, we may not be gathering on Sunday mornings like we used to, but we are still doing church as the way Jesus intended us to do. He really loves it when two or three of his followers get together and figure out ways to worship him through service. It reminds me of what the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9: 10-15; *The one who supplies seed for planting and bread for eating will supply and multiply your seed and will increase your crop, which is righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way. Such generosity produces thanksgiving to God through us. Your ministry of this service to God's people isn't only fully meeting their needs but it is also multiplying in many expressions of thanksgiving to God. They will give honor to God for your obedience to your confession of Christ's gospel. They will do this because this service provides evidence of your obedience, and because of your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone. They will also pray for you, and they will care deeply for you because of the outstanding grace that God has given to you. Thank God for his gift that words can't describe!* Yes God, thank you for this indescribable gift you have given your little church here on the Olympic Peninsula.

Faithfully,

Scott



# WAVE FOOD DRIVE

**MONTH**

**All October**

Churches & Faith Communities gather financial and non-perishable food donations through October in a "love-your-neighbor" effort to support Jefferson County Food Banks.

**DAY**

**Sat. Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>**

*All of Jefferson County is invited to donate at QFC stores in Port Townsend & Port Hadlock or locations listed at:*  
***[wavefooddrive.wordpress.com](http://wavefooddrive.wordpress.com)***

Give online at: [jeffersoncountyfoodbanks.org](http://jeffersoncountyfoodbanks.org) or by mail to JeffCo Food Banks PO Box 124 Pt. Hadlock WA 98339  
Make checks payable to **Jefferson County Food Bank Association**. Home-canned foods cannot be accepted.  
Canned foods that are past their expiration dates by less than three years CAN be donated. Opened food containers cannot be accepted BUT opened shampoos, lotions, dish soaps and pet foods are welcome.



## EVERYONE VOTE!

By Marsha Hamacher

Lately, I've been very sad with the state of our country, because no matter which side of the political spectrum you land on, there is strife and division. I kept thinking, "What positive thing can I do?" Here I am, one lone person on the Olympic Peninsula with very little power to do anything meaningful as far as the country is concerned. I do support our local missions, which gives me great joy and helps all kinds of people regardless of political affiliation, but there is very little I can do on a larger scale. And then Audrey put out an email on the CUMC email chain that asked if anyone could help her drop off some packets of voter registration forms to the various Jefferson County food banks. Bingo! I was in! It was truly a God thing.

Although I didn't know it initially, there were already some participants in Audrey's hopes and dreams for registering voters. She had made arrangements for Larry to take the registration forms to Dove House, Bayside, and several of the retirement communities. Then, Leslie at the Quilcene food bank heard about these activities, asked for her food bank to be included, and the dream expanded. Leslie handed out the forms and even offered to mail the completed ones for her clients. Thus, my assignment was to drop off voter registration forms to the Brinnon, Tri-Area, and Port Townsend food banks as well. I called Betty to see whom I should talk to at each place and then looked up their contact information on the internet. Here is where the adventure began for me.

First, I called Eloise at Brinnon to see how many forms she needed. From this phone call, I learned that the census takers had been there previously on a food bank day and were very successful in talking to the people in each car as they were waiting to go through the food bank line. She said that the food bank was incredibly busy and that she had no one extra to stuff the forms into the boxes. Referencing the success of the census people, she asked if we could send someone down to hand out the forms in person. I wasn't so sure, given the possible Covid 19 exposure, but I told her I would check and get back with her.



Next, John at Tri-Area was on my list. He, too, wanted us to hand them out personally, but when I told him that almost our entire congregation was "at risk" for Covid, he graciously offered to have his office people stuff them into the boxes. We were still working on a way to do Tri-Area in person, too.

And then I called Shirley at Port Townsend. She was a wealth of all kinds of questions and information! She was adamant about wanting to distribute the forms at the PT food bank, no matter which method we used, since she, too, thought it was important to give everyone a chance to vote. She and I talked on the phone several times and her points were, like Eloise, about how successful the census people were and also how many forms we'd save if we actually handed them out individually and how more people were likely to actually fill them out if they were personally talked to and helped with the instructions. Now I just had to get some people to work. And I was worried about asking anyone, or doing it myself, because of the exposure to virus.

The next Sunday, Pastor Scott read our plea during online church for anyone that was interested in working and Lynn Marlow answered the call, bless her. She, too, was wanting to be able to do something, to make a difference, and was very interested in helping. And then through Gladys, her daughter Julianne also volunteered and we were set.

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Both Eloise and Shirley said that we would get more people if we visited the food banks on the last week of the month, so we planned for last week when the clients could still hit the registration deadline. Because we had a late start in realizing the scope our project would take, we would not be able to do both Tri-Area and Port Townsend, so this time around, John at Tri-Area lived up to his promise and stuffed the forms into the client boxes, leaving us Brinnon on Tuesday and Port Townsend on Wednesday. John needed 160 forms, however, so Audrey, who had originally run to the elections office to pick up one package of forms, called them and went back to get more. We had no idea how many we would need and she wanted to be sure we had enough.

After a few more phone calls with Eloise and Shirley, Julie and I were scheduled for Brinnon and Lynn and Julie were scheduled for Port Townsend. Julie's wonderful husband, Charlie, came along for both and proved to be a great assistant, bringing chairs, running errands, and being super supportive.

Tuesday morning bright and early, Julie, Charlie, and I met Eloise at the Brinnon food bank where there were already three cars in line. If I had had any doubts at all about Covid safety, they vanished as soon as I saw how well they were set up. We had masks, the clients had masks except for maybe three people when we made sure to distance, and the food bank workers had masks. Clients stayed in their cars and we could talk to all of them from a safe distance. Eloise is a miracle! She has her finger on the pulse of every facet of the food bank and knows her clients like family. Such a joy to watch! She started us out by taking us with her as she greeted and registered clients, and in a very short while, we followed her lead and began down the line on our own. Brinnon is a small food bank, and probably only one worker would have been necessary, but we had a great time alternating cars and talking to the people. Absolutely no one was out of sorts, most were already registered, and several people very respectfully and passionately told us who they were voting for and why. I love this sort of thing and it restores my faith in our ability to have different views and be respectful about it. We, of course, remained apolitical and just listened to the wonderful people we met. Eloise also had us tell the people that took a registration form that they could bring it back next week and she would take them to the elections office for them. We also were able to help people check to make sure that they were registered. It was a lovely day.

On Wednesday morning, we finally got to meet the amazing Shirley. The operation of the Port Townsend food bank is a huge undertaking and she and her volunteers were as organized as Brinnon and just as friendly and welcoming. We had our temperatures taken, donned our masks, and were given a quick tour. Julie was there again and Lynn came to help, too. Charlie was again an excellent support system and was needed even more. Here, instead of only one person being able to handle the load, we actually could have used another volunteer. I was unable to stay, but Julie and Lynn worked it all out between them with Charlie's help and persevered. Needless to say, we learned some lessons on both days, but that one especially.

We are hoping to continue this service for the next election. Having learned a lot about how to organize and orchestrate it thanks to our expert food bank managers sharing their knowledge, we should be able to cover all four food banks in person. I know I'll volunteer again!



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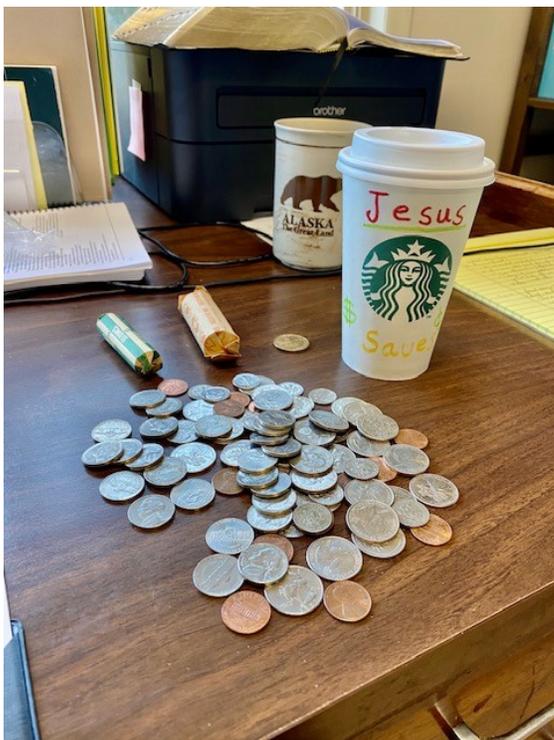
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## JESUS CUP

By Scott Rosekrans; photo by Scott Rosekrans



\$45.00 for September goes to the Quilcene Food Bank. Thanks to Bev Rothenberg, Kendra Hermanson and Michael Swartout for their bags of change. It does make a difference



## TOYS FOR TOTS



This early into the Fall Season, its difficult to be thi about Christmas. Well. It is just around the corner. This year the Toys for tots campaign is gearing up for what looks like a busy Christmas Season. With so many families being out of work for an extended time, they will be needing some help this coming Christmas. The Toys for Tots tries awfully hard "to be inclusive and not exclusive "when giving out our toys. Last year Toys for Tots gave out to over 1056 Children toys and books which is almost twice our normal year. We averaged 3.58 toys or books per child this last year. We had a wonderful donation of over 2,000 education type books that we gave to all the elementary schools, day cares and libraries of East Jefferson County.

The Christmas for Children Program is one of the major providers and takes applications for Toys for Tots/Christmas for Children and distribution of our toys to the Children's Family in mid-December.

Application for 2020 for Children from 0 through 16 years, from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 15, 2020. Apply on line at: [christmas4children@hotmail.com](mailto:christmas4children@hotmail.com) [www.christmas4children.com](http://www.christmas4children.com) or call and leave a message at 1-360-379-4207. There will also be application at the food banks.

The Toys for Tots donations have also gone to: Head Start, Elks Veteran's Program, Dove House, Jumping Mouse, Quilcene Food Bank and others.

We will again have a toys collection box in church for drop off even if we are close for services. There will also be collection boxes in many of the business of East Jefferson.

To donate go "Toysfortots.org" and Find your local campaign (Washington) then Jefferson East and the donation will go directly into our bank account.

Our church is very aware that the mission field is also our community. We all are missionaries in our own exciting ways.

Thank you all for your continued support of our "Toys for Tots" Campaign.



# FOOD PANTRY

By Scott Rosekrans; photos by Scott Rosekrans



Well, it looks as if our Food Pantry ministry has taken off! Our very own Jean Holtz is a real mover and shaker. She came by earlier this week and dropped off a lot of food that she collected in Port Ludlow. She regularly sets up in the parking lot near the Village Store taking donations from residents. They have come to know her through her work with Vet Connect ([vetconnect@olycap.org](mailto:vetconnect@olycap.org)) so the folks know she's the real deal. She put the word out that we were starting a Food Pantry at the church and the response was overwhelming. She shared her list with me which should give you a pretty good idea of what works best with the population that comes to us for assistance. Let me add two additional items. Rolls of toilet paper are always in demand. Also, feminine hygiene products are something we don't think about. A study several years ago determined that feminine hygiene products were the number one item shoplifted from grocery stores and pharmacies. I have been asked from time to time if we had any on hand. Several years ago I asked a homeless woman who was living in her van what sort of items she needed. Her answer was simple: if you were going car camping for the weekend what would you take?

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## **VETCONNECT FOOD & HYGIENE ITEMS**

To observe health laws all foods & hygiene items must come in individually wrapped packages so that we can avoid any handling of exposed food or personal items and to make it easier to parcel out according to numbers of persons/families.

### **Food Items**

Top Ramen/Maruchan Ramen noodle packets (not cups, get more with packets)

Packets of crackers,

Pull tab cans of soup (pull tabs eliminates need for can opener)

Pull tab cans of pork & beans, chili, stew or SpaghettiOs

Pull tab cans of chicken, tuna, pork, beef or Spam

Small pull tab cans of fruit, apple sauce or pudding

Individual packets of instant oatmeal

Individual packets of breakfast bars or nutrition bars

Small packets of hot chocolate or boxes of individual packets of instant coffee

Individually wrapped packets of beef/pork jerky or Slim Jims

### **Hygiene Items**

Baby Wipe Packets

Travel size soap

Tooth Brushes

Travel size toothpaste

Travel size shampoo

Travel size conditioner

Travel size deodorants

Small combs

Disposable razors

Travel size shaving cream

# PRAYER REQUESTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020



Pamela A. A woman we helped who was scheduled for surgery

Todd who, along with his wife, are educating their daughters during the pandemic. The daughters are worried about not being able to go to school and are feeling stressed.

Loretta who is homeless in her vehicle and needs permanent housing.

Prayers for those affected by the wildfires on the West Coast.

John and Bev Atkins (Teresa's cousins) who are missionaries in Honduras and have Covid.

Sonja and Blaine who lost their 13 year old son.

Bob Linrothe and his continuing medical issues.

Ginger Hill (friend of Scott and Teresa) who suffered a serious brain bleed.

Kathy Anderson requested prayers for her son Jeremy in his search for good employment.

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Sue French who had to put her dog Taz down. A faithful companion for 13 years.

Prayers for the nation as we mourn the loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Jim and Debbie Dodd's kids in California who had to evacuate their home due to the fires.

Paul and Joyce who are homeless in their motorhome. Paul had a heart attack and is Joyce's provider.

A young homeless man who came by the church for assistance.

Beth Rosekrans (our daughter-in-law) who had to put her favorite horse down.

Prayers for Judy who is having surgery tomorrow; that she heal well and love surrounds her.

BIRTHDAYS	HOSPITALITY	OUR PRAYERS
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**3** Stephanie Buehler  
**11** Larry Howland  
**13** Marsha Hamacher  
**15** Audrey Sanderson  
**19** Bernita Butler  
**23** Patti Smith  
**27** Patti Shuff  
**30** Diane Johnson

4  
 11  
 18  
 25

- \* For the homeless, the hungry and the unemployed.
- \* For Peace on Earth!
- \* For wisdom for our leaders.
- \* For employment for people struggling to find meaningful work.
- \* For Healing and provisions for those who are suffering with COVID-19.
- \* For protection of the medical front-line workers who are caring for patients with COVID -19.

ALTAR FLOWERS
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4  
 11  
 18  
 25

LITURGISTS
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4  
 11  
 18  
 25

COMMUNION SERVERS
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SUNDAY SCHOOL
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COUNTERS
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4  
 11  
 18  
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4  
 11  
 18  
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GREETERS
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4  
 11  
 18  
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USHERS
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4  
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 18  
 25



**SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS**

Oct 4  
 Exod 20:1-4,7-9  
 Ps 19  
 Phil 3:4b-14  
 Matt 21:33-46

Oct 11  
 Exod 32:1-14  
 Ps 106:1-6, 19-23  
 Phil 4:1-9  
 Matt 22:1-14

Oct 18  
 Exod 33: 12-23  
 Ps 99  
 1 Thess 1:1-10  
 Matt 22:15-22

Oct 25  
 Deut 34:1-12  
 Ps 90:1-6,13-17  
 1 Thess 2:1-8  
 Matt 21:34-46



## United in Separation

Monthly Devotion

July 12, 2020

By [Leslie Koh](#)

Thrown into a project with his colleague Tim, Alvin faced a major challenge: he and Tim had very different ideas of how to go about it. While they respected each other's opinions, their approaches were so different that conflict seemed imminent. Before conflict broke out, however, the two men agreed to discuss their differences with their boss, who put them on separate teams. It turned out to be a wise move. That day, Alvin learned this lesson: Being united doesn't always mean doing things together.

Abraham must have realized this truth when he suggested that he and Lot go their separate ways in Bethel (Genesis 13:5-9). Seeing that there wasn't enough space for both their flocks, Abraham wisely suggested parting company. But first, he stressed that they were "close relatives" (v. 8), reminding Lot of their relationship. Then, with the greatest humility, he let his nephew have the first choice (v. 9) even though he, Abraham, was the senior man. It was, as one pastor described it, a "harmonious separation."

Being made uniquely by God, we may find that we sometimes work better separately to achieve the same goal. There's a unity in diversity. May we never forget, however, that we're still brothers and sisters in the family of God. We may do things differently, but we remain united in purpose.



Community United Methodist Church

Open Hearts Open Doors Open Minds

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**Learning Circle: 9:00am**  
**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**  
**Sunday School: 10:15 am**  
**Fellowship Time: 11:15 am**

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