

CREATING CONNECTIONS



The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

September 2018

The 12 Steps of Maintaining a Life in Christ

By Scott Rosekrans

As part of our Learning Circle study on Sunday mornings we've been reading Paul's letter to the church in Rome. As we were discussing Romans 8: 1-17, I realized that it might make for a good sermon. As I was reading it closer it came to me that Paul was talking about working a program, a program that would keep you close to Christ during those times, as a believer, you felt the pull of sin and temptation trying to pull you down. The more I read it, the more I realized that his program was very similar to a 12-Step recovery program. With that in mind, I googled The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. I shouldn't have been surprised as it is a faith-based program, but as I examined the steps closer I came to realize that these steps could be tweaked into a program that us Christians who struggle with our walk could use to keep us on the path. So, the following is my rendition of: The 12 Steps of Maintaining a Life in Christ.

Step 1: *We admit we are powerless over sin, that our lives have become unmanageable.*

Step 2: *We come to believe that a life in Jesus Christ can restore us to a life of peace.* See, Paul is talking about working a program, one where we rely on Jesus Christ to help us with our out-of-control lives. All that is required is that we enter the program and work the steps. So now you're ready to begin.

Step 3: *We've made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God.* As we say in Drug Court: "Let go and let God."

Step 4: *We make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.* You sit down and take a hard look at your life and the direction in which it is leading you.

Step 5: *We admit to God and ourselves the exact nature of our wrongs.* You've had that "come-to-Jesus meeting" and you are ready to confess your sins.

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Pastor's Pen



I'm not sure if anyone is still doing the New Testament Challenge where, earlier this year, we challenged ourselves to read one chapter a day out of the New Testament until we finished with Revelations. I'll admit that I haven't been doing a daily reading but I just finished Galatians which I think is pretty good so far.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHALLENGE



Galatians is a short book of only six chapters. From what I was able to determine, the churches in Galatia were in conflict. Many still wanted to follow the laws of the Old Testament, some embraced the new-found freedom in Jesus Christ, the new covenant, and others sought a mixture of both, i.e., you could follow Christ but still had to be circumcised and follow the Old Testament laws.

You can sense Paul's frustration, as it seemed so very simple to him, yet others continued to struggle. In Chapter Five he tries to lay it out as simply as he can. He cautions against becoming entangled by the yoke of the law. He tells them the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." It just doesn't get much simpler. He's worried about the infighting that has infected the church and warns that if they bite and devour one another, to beware lest they be consumed by one another! He fears they are getting bogged down in doctrine and things that just don't matter. What matters is the Spirit. Paul tells them that following the Spirit produces fruit such as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Paul says that if we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.



That's it in a nutshell. Don't sweat the small stuff. Live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit. What could be simpler?

Faithfully,

Scott



(continued from the front page)

Step 6: *We're entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.* You realize what's wrong with you and you're ready to ask for forgiveness.

Step 7: *We humbly ask God to remove our shortcomings.* You've turned your life over to God and want him to make you a better person. You are now God-centered.

Step 8: *We make a conscious decision to treat others as we would have them treat us.* We've adjusted our thinking and now realize the negative consequences of our actions.

Step 9: *We seek to ask forgiveness from those we've hurt wherever possible.* You're living a new life and want to make it better, repairing the damage of your past actions is a good place to start.

Step 10: *We continue to take personal inventory and when we're wrong, we promptly admit it.* We're a work in progress and know there will be times when we fall short and fail. We just want to get out ahead of it and do what Jesus would do.

Step 11: *We seek through prayer and meditation to improve our relationship with God, praying for knowledge of His will for us, and the power to carry it out.* We've established that personal relationship with God and we understand what God wants from us and we pray for the ability to carry it out.

Step 12: *We've had a spiritual awakening as a result of our growing relationship with God and we carry this message of a new life to other sinners and work to continue refining our Christian walk in all our affairs.* The Spirit lives in us and we walk in the Spirit.

So, the next time you're confronted with feelings of condemnation and guilt, do what other 12 steppers do, work the steps! Pray and go to God with your feelings, seeking His forgiveness and reassurance that all is in the past and forgiven. If you work the steps you can move forward in serving Him, just as He intended for us even before we were born.

(If you'd like to read the full text of the sermon go to our webpage at: hadlockchurch.com and look for the 8/26/18 sermon entitled: Working The Steps.)

Church Office Hours

(beginning September 1st)

Pastor Scott's Office Hours:

Mondays	10am-3pm
Tuesdays	10am-6pm
Wednesdays	10am-3pm



Church Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday
10am-2pm



Church Offices
will be closed
on Monday,
September 4th
in honor of
Labor Day.



LIFE CARE CENTER OF PORT TOWNSEND



**Life Care Center
Worship Service**
Sunday,
September 30th
2:00pm

BIRTHDAYS		GREETERS		OUR PRAYERS	
2	Joan Flowers	2	Bob Linrothe	*	Ted & Connie Ross' neighbor in Inner Harbor, Darlene, going through chemo for leukemia.
15	Lori Oberlander	9	Julie Boggs	*	Marsha Hamacher's dog, Magic, who has been having trouble getting stabilized with meds and food for IBD.
18	Doris Unruh	16	Judy Olsen	*	Ted & Stephanie Buehler's niece, MaryAnne, with mental health struggles and the recent loss of her father.
20	Rubie Horton	23	Marcy Wootan	*	Timothy Peterson, recovering from two heart attacks in July
23	Lil Tiller	30	John Sweet	*	Marcell Berlin's cousin, Karl, in the hospital with heart and prostate cancer in Olympia
27	Julie Boggs	HOSPITALITY		*	The homeless, hungry and unemployed (continued on page 6)
27	Leona Long	2			
27	Betty Henspeter	9	AJ Laverty/		
30	Dick Shuff	16			
ALTAR FLOWERS		23			
2	Kendra Hermanson	30			
9	Marcell Berlin	LITURGISTS			
16		2	Mike Perzel		
23	Marsha Hamacher	9	Diane Johnson		
30	Don & Judy Olsen	16	Jackie Dale		
COMMUNION SERVERS		23	Liz Hazen		
2	Diane J. & Pat C.	30	Marcy Wootan		
COUNTERS		SUNDAY SCHOOL		USHERS	
2	Debbie/Mike	2	Stephen/Bev	2	Jackie/
9	Betty P./Cindi J.	9	Debbie/	9	Mike/Jackie
16	Lori/Marsha	16	Kathy/	16	AJ/Stephanie
23	Sara/Diane	23	Julie/	23	Larry/Connie
30	Lori/Betty P.	30	Stephen/	30	Cindi/Henry

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

September 2

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 16

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

September 23

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalm 1

James 3:13-4:3

Mark 9:30-37

September 30

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

Psalm 124

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Finance Report for July 2018

Income:

Frontage Rental	\$400.00
Parsonage Rental	1,184.00
Pledges	5,864.47
Non-Pledge Gifts	3,875.00
Cash Offering	511.25
Misc. Income	<u>2,160.00</u>
Total	\$13,994.72

Expenses:

Apportionments	\$1,304.62
Local Ministry	1,163.50
Operating Expenses	2,507.52
Personnel Compensation	<u>5,508.02</u>
Total	\$10,483.66

Surplus/(Deficit) for July 2018 = \$3,511



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. During the January 2018 Finance Committee Meeting, the committee voted to continue supporting the same three missions with the same donation amounts in 2018.

Following is the donation schedule for 2018 and the total amount donated that month:

January:	ECHHO	\$637.00	July:	ECHHO	\$350.00
February:	Food Bank	\$745.50	August:	Food Bank	\$
March:	OlyCAP	\$474.50	September:	OlyCAP	\$
April:	ECHHO	\$355.00	October:	ECHHO	\$
May:	Food Bank	\$429.50	November:	Food Bank	\$
June:	OlyCAP	\$670.00	December:	OlyCAP	\$

Local Mission of the Month Highlight

By Lori Oberlander

Our local mission of the month for September is OlyCAP. This agency operates in Jefferson and Clallam county and they provide many services for people in need including nutritional well-balanced meals for seniors, emergency services such as energy assistance, as well as public transportation, food, household supplies, housing support, rental assistance, personal hygiene, laundry, medical, dental, eyeglasses and more.

Last year, OlyCAP provided services to over 2,200 people in need in Jefferson and Clallam County in the following areas:

Energy assistance	643	Rental Assistance	500
Public Transportation	482	Personal Hygiene	255
Food	146	Laundry	281
Household Supplies	119	Medical/Dental/Eyeglasses	314
Housing Support	126	Vehicle Fuel—medical	47

When we give to OlyCAP it makes a difference in people's lives.

Blood Drive

Wednesday, September 5th

11am-5pm

**To make an appointment or
questions about eligibility call**

1-800-398-7888 x2.



**Donations
go to
local
hospitals.**

OUR PRAYERS

(continued from page 4)

- * Peace and wisdom for our national leaders
- * People struggling from payday to payday
- * Peace around the world
- * Continued prayers for Betty Harmon's progress and recovery
- * Friends and family of Robert Haertig, artist and UCC Pastor, who passed away recently at age 92.
- * Continued prayers for Jay Morrow's kidneys

OUR PRAISES

- * Jay Morrow's liver has improved and the doctor thinks he'll most likely get off dialysis
- * Betty Harmon, Evelyn Mosher, Bernita Butler and Betty Prentice who are all home and doing well

UMW

Meeting, Program & Luncheon

Thursday, September 6th

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 10:00am | Business meeting |
| 11:00am | Speaker Nancy Budd-Garvan, Executive Director of ECHHO (Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization), will give a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the organization. ECHHO is one of the local missions CUMC supports. |
| 12:00pm | Luncheon provided by Sara Davis and Pat Chase. |



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	<i>Labor Day</i> Church Offices Closed 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	3 1pm SPRC Meeting 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	4 11am-5pm Blood Drive 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	5 10am UMW Meeting 11am UMW Program & Luncheon 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting	6 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Huia Class	7 8am Men's Breakfast
9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	9 10:30am-12pm Memory Caregiver Support Group 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	10 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	11 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	12 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting	13 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Huia Class	14 8am Men's Breakfast
9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	16 Newsletter Articles Due 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	17 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	18 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	19 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting	20 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Huia Class	21 8am Men's Breakfast
9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	23 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	24 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	25 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	26 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting	27 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Huia Class	28 8am Men's Breakfast
9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	30 2pm Life Care Center Worship Service					29 8am Men's Breakfast

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Monthly Devotional

Our Daily Bread, September 5, 2005

Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. Colossians 3:23

Hard Labor

It's one of life's ironies that on Labor Day in the US and Canada, most of the workers get the day off. But that's for good reason. What better way to reward a hard-working populace than to give the laborers a holiday!

Labor Day seems like a good time to take a closer look at what it takes to offer our employers our best.

1. *No matter what our task, it's our duty to work for God's glory* (Colossians 3:23). In this sense, no job is better than another. Each should result in honor to God.

2. *The way we work can earn the respect of those who do not follow Christ* (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12). A boss shouldn't have to tell a Christian to use time well or to work hard.

3. *Our work is one way to fulfill our dual purpose: to love God and others. Showing love to our co-workers is a good way to show that we love God* (Matthew 22:37-40).

4. *We must work to provide for those who depend on us. Harsh words of criticism are reserved for those who don't take care of their family* (1 Timothy 5:8).

Having a job can be hard work. Even for those who truly enjoy their jobs, it's nice to have a Labor Day breather. But until the day comes when our work is over, our task is to make our labor a testimony to God's glory.

By Dave Branon

Whatever you are working on,
Engage in it with zest,
Because your work is for the Lord,
And He expects your best. —Sper

It's not the hours you put in that count, but what you put in the hours.



Community United Methodist Church

Open Hearts Open Doors Open Minds

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1165

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Phone: 360.385.1579

Church office email: cumc@olympus.net

Church Office Hours:

10am - 2pm, Tuesday - Friday

Web Site: www.HadlockChurch.com

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Sunday School: 10:15 am

Fellowship Time: 11:15 am

Scott Rosekrans, Pastor

Email: pastorscottrosekrans@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours:

10 am - 3 pm, Monday & Wednesday

10 am - 6 pm, Tuesday