

CREATING CONNECTIONS



The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

December 2018

Alternative Christmas 2018

As Alternative Christmas projects this year we are sponsoring Toys For Tots and Heifer International as some options for you to donate to.



Heifer International affords you the opportunity to gift animals to families around the world that they can use to help support their families like sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, bees and the like. We have catalogs in the office or on the side table in the narthex for you to browse through. For more information on Heifer contact Wendi Metzger by email at metzer@olympen.com or by phone at 360-379-3075.



If you'd like to buy a toy, please buy a new toy and put it, unwrapped, in the collection box in the Narthex. Hadlock Building Supply has a nice selection of toys at very reasonable prices and you get to shop local. For more information on Toys For Tots contact Don Olsen by email at workingolsen@gmail.com or by phone at 360-379-6700.

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Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

On November 6th, I traveled to meet with the DCOM Committee. That stands for District Committee On Ministry which is a committee that oversees area pastors to see how they're doing, if there are any issues in their respective ministries and what, if anything, they can do to help. They wanted to know how things were going at Community so, with great enthusiasm, I told them all that was going on within our congregation. I ran down the list of those things you are already aware of which was mainly our mission focus and, I also told them about my plans for the coming year. They were favorably impressed, however, I was asked rather pointedly if I thought all this mission effort was making disciples of Jesus Christ. I responded that it was, in that the mission effort was creating excitement within the congregation to become more engaged in what is happening within our community, and that



several people have joined our church because of our mission focus. Although they didn't come right out and say it, I think I may know where they were coming from. I think they wanted to know if we were bringing new people to Jesus Christ. Again, I think by making our existing congregation better and stronger disciples of Jesus Christ, we'll hopefully get there. I told them I've read every book I can get my hands on trying to figure out the best way to effectively reach people who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I'm beginning to think this is an issue that has the Methodist Church stumped too. I told the committee that I put together a three-year plan when I began at Community and currently am on track and that after the first of the year, I plan on discussing the next phase with the new leadership. Several parts of the plan are already in place, like the refurbishing of the sanctuary, the remodel of the Sunday School room and the Nursery. Our webpage and Facebook page are in

Thank You

place and are informative. Our mission effort (SODS) is meeting the needs of those who need help and people are talking about Community UMC. Some of the books I've read said not to expect much change or progress for the first three years. I think we've defied the odds and are showing promise. We're halfway through year three and I am starting to see the fruits of our labor. It hasn't been easy and I appreciate the help and support from numerous people. Regardless of what I do or what I read, the best advertisement for our Church and what it means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, is you. You need to talk to people and invite

them to church. As you engage these people you need to tell them why you go to church. If they're looking for something, they might see it in your story. Lastly, keep me in your prayers as I continue to grow in my ministry and be an effective shepherd to the flock in which God has entrusted to me.



Faithfully,

Scott



Bayside Housing Update

By Stephanie Buehler

You'll be happy to know that in the last 3 months, Bayside has had four residents move out into permanent housing. They also expanded their capacity and currently have the most residents they've ever had, at 19, which includes their first child, who was living in a vehicle with her mother prior to moving in last month. They will be transitioning three of their rooms to family housing this winter, and already have a waitlist for those spaces. There are currently 37 people on their waitlist, so the need is much more than they're able to meet.

Additional statistical information:

5 of their residents are employed

2 are full time students

10 are disabled or seniors and are unable to work

4 are participating in Mental Health court, and all report that stable housing has helped them stay sober and on track.

Heather Hanson, our liaison with Bayside, asked that we let you know how much the donations we are providing, really do make a difference. Their residents are living on very modest incomes (including those who work!), and the cost of moving into a new apartment is so high that basic necessities like bedding, towels, dishes, etc. are often not at the top of their list of priorities. She went on to say that "it's hard for me to describe the looks of relief and gratitude when our residents hear that those things will be taken care of." Of course, they are also grateful for the beds and furniture we have provided as well over the past year and a half and we recently replaced 3 shower curtains and liners.

Another exciting development is that Bayside is beginning a weekly community meal on Sunday afternoons. The chef at The Old Alcohol Plant is providing this meal from fresh food not used in the restaurant the previous week. Rather than throwing it away, the residents will have an opportunity to share a lovely meal together in a communal setting. CUMC has purchased preliminary tableware supplies to get this new program off the ground. **There may be volunteer opportunities available at these meals.** They would involve making sure the room is set up, the meal runs smoothly and cleaning up afterwards. If you are interested, please contact Stephanie or Ted Buehler.

Let's take this opportunity to once again count all our blessings.



Volunteers assemble more hygiene kits to donate to local food banks. A few kits are also kept on hand to give out to people who stop by the church seeking assistance. Photos by Scott Rosekrans.



BIRTHDAYS

1 Larry Sanderson
14 Sara Davis
25 Evelyn Mosher

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Advent

COUNTERS

2 Debbie/Mike
9 Marsha/Patty S.
16 Lori/Betty P.
23 Sara/Diane
30 Sara/Diane

USHERS

2 Jackie/
9 Marsha/Mike
16 AJ/Stephanie
23 Larry/Connie
30 /

COMMUNION SERVERS

2 Henry & Cindi Jones

GREETERS

2 Bob Linrothe
9 Julie Boggs
16 Judy Olsen
23 Marcy Wootan
30 John Sweet

HOSPITALITY

2 Debbie/
9 Stephanie/
16
23 Marsha/
30

LITURGISTS

2 Mike Perzel
9 Diane Johnson
16 Stephen Chase
23 Liz Hazen
30 To be determined

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2 Julie/
9 Stephen/
16 Kathy/
23 Debbie/
30 Julie/

OUR PRAYERS

- * For our military, police, fire fighters, and their families; also nurses and health care persons who give so much time and care.
- * AJ's daughter-in-law, Shari, who fell and fractured her pelvis in three places.
- * Evelyn Fett, who has been at Life Care Center, her dementia and Alzheimer's has progressed and become unmanageable at home.
- * A Christian man in Quilcene who needs to be set free from alcoholism.
- * Debbie Rogers, diagnosis and recovery from dizziness; wisdom for doctors
- * The homeless, hungry and unemployed
- * Peace around the world
- * Cindi's daughter in Santa Barbara, Sienna, successful recovery from heart surgery
- * Our national leaders
- * This season of Advent



(continued on page 7)

DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS**December 2**

Jeremiah 33:14-16
 Psalm 25:1-10
 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 1:68-79
 Philippians 1:3-11
 Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:47-55
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45

December 30

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2:41-52

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Finance Report for October 2018

Income:

Frontage Rental	\$450.00
Parsonage Rental	1,274.00
Pledges/Non-Pledges	8,968.35
Cash Offering	188.10
Misc. Income	<u>40.00</u>
Total	\$10,920.45

Expenses:

Apportionments	\$1,304.62
Local Ministry	776.00
Operating Expenses	1,064.37
Personnel Compensation	<u>5,287.27</u>
Total	\$8,432.26

Surplus/(Deficit) for October 2018 = \$2,488

Local

MISSION of the MONTH

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	\$363.00
March:	OlyCAP	\$474.50	September:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
April:	ECHHO	\$355.00	October:	ECHHO	\$350.00
May:	Food Bank	\$429.50	November:	Food Bank	\$
June:	OlyCAP	\$670.00	December:	OlyCAP	\$

Volunteers gathered several times this month to assemble homemade fire starters to donate to the Quilcene and Tri-Area Food Banks. Melted wax is poured over dryer lint in egg cartons to create these homemade items which the food bank gives out to clients weekly. The cold weather this time of year makes these fire starters invaluable to those living outdoors or in vehicles. Want to help in this important and practical ministry? Volunteers always welcome! Currently, empty egg cartons and wax supplies are needed, so cook up and eat some eggs and gather old or unused candles from your home or local second-hand store to donate. Photos by Scott Rosekrans.



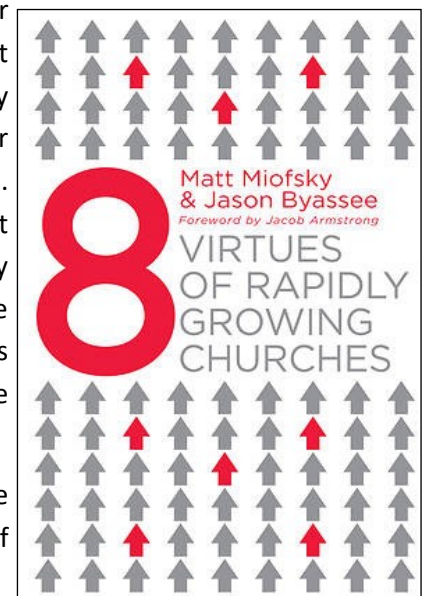
8 Virtues of Rapidly Growing Churches

By Scott Rosekrans

When I met with our Staff-Parish Relations Committee almost three years ago, one of their desires was to attract new people to church, mainly young families. This is the hope and desire of just about every church that has experienced a decline in attendance over the last decade or more. I always have a steady supply of books written by the “experts” who offer up their ideas and solutions. I know that what works for one church may not work for another, but I read the books looking for things that I think might work for us. Some ideas I’ve actually implemented at Community and they seem to be working.

In any event, I just finished reading 8 Virtues of Rapidly Growing Churches, by Matt Miofsy and Jason Byassee. It was a pretty good book and I can’t say one way or another if some of their suggestions would work here but I did see some things that caught my attention. The first virtue was: Rapidly Growing Churches Believe in Miracles and Act Accordingly. The authors point out that *acting as if we believe that the Holy Spirit is up to something in our midst is the single greatest game-changing decision a church leadership team can make*. I like that because I do think the Holy Spirit is up to something here at Community. The Spirit has engaged us and excited us in our mission and outreach effort. We are the somebodies who do something when something needs to be done. I think the size of the miracle is all relevant. Most people expect a big miracle, but I think the surprises come in the mini-miracles that we experience as we continue to grow and engage. The more we do, the more the Spirit finds for us to do. The authors said that they discovered that churches that believe in the miraculous movement of the Holy Spirit pray fervently, specifically, and boldly. I couldn’t agree more. I know I pray constantly for our church and for guidance and I know many of you spend a lot of time in prayer and, it is evident that your prayers are being answered. Praying fervently, boldly, and specifically for miracles begins to focus our vision and it helps us to be on the lookout for where God might be working, and where we were perhaps missing God. According to the authors, the key is acting boldly. We have to act as if we expect God to do miracles. They point out that the more boldly we act, the more likely we are to see miracles happening. We have to make things happen, we must be willing to try things that most churches are unwilling to try in order to get results that most churches don’t. We have to trust the Spirit and not be afraid of failure because, in failure there is learning.

The fact that we have the first virtue at work in our church gives me hope that the other virtues are in play and, with prayer and hard work, we can become one of those rapidly growing churches.



The All-Church Thanksgiving Eve Soup Supper and Service were well-attended and everyone savored the delicious variety of soups served alongside bread and dessert. Small children enjoyed play in the newly renovated nursery while seventy-three adults attended the worship service.

Photos by Scott Rosekrans



OUR PRAYERS

(continued from page 4)

- * People struggling to make ends meet
- * Joan's friend, Dell, recovering from double knee surgery
- * AJ, recovering from gall bladder surgery
- * Stephen's friends Bill, with chronic back pain; and Frank, with kidney issues
- * Bob's son, Mark, who's cancer has flared up again; prayers for peace, wisdom and hope.
- * Marsha's friend, Robbie, who recently lost her father
- * Megan Spence, with undiagnosed abdominal pain
- * Byron Gholson, healing from cancer
- * All people affected by recent wildfires, including two friends of Marsha, who lost their homes.
- * God's provision for the homeless and impoverished population of Jefferson County

PRAISES

- * For the folks who ran for public office and the number of voters who took interest in the elections.
- * Chuck has a new place to live
- * Veterans and service members for their service to our country
- * All who donated hats, scarves, gloves and socks for the Socktober Drive; stuffed animals for Snuggles for Seniors; items for Dove House women for Christmas
- * Volunteers helping plan and working in the kitchen for soup suppers, potlucks, parties, etc. at the church
- * Volunteers assembling hygiene kits and fire starters for local food banks
- * Pastor Scott, for all his hard work on cleaning, sorting, organizing, painting, as well as efforts to involve the church in meeting the needs of the local community



UMW Program & Lunch

Thursday, December 6th at 11:00am

The Choral Belles will present their holiday program so prepare to be delighted! Afterward there will be a potluck lunch so please plan on bringing an appetizer, main dish or a salad. Dessert will be provided.

UMW Holiday Mission

One of the holiday missions we will be undertaking next month is to "adopt" 5 or 6 adult women who are clients of Dove House and provide gifts for them for Christmas. These are adults who may have been isolated from their families, and otherwise will not receive any Christmas gifts. Dove House advocates will be working with their clients this month and encouraging them to make a wish list of suggested items they would like to receive. We will share the wish lists with you by way of bulletin inserts in November in case you would like to pick up something when you are doing your holiday shopping. We will also place a sign-up on the table in the narthex so you can indicate what you have purchased or will provide, and then we will all know what things have already been purchased. Dove House asks that we deliver the gifts, **unwrapped**, to them by **December 12th**.

If you would like to support Dove House beyond this, they suggest gift cards from local businesses, wrapping paper and supplies, large yard waste bags, teen stocking stuffers like headphones, charging ports, socks, brushes, aftershave, and financial gifts that can be used to help fill in the gaps.



CREATING CONNECTIONS

What Does it Mean to be a United Methodist?

By Dale Kelley

How many of us could answer this question in a few short sentences? Or even a few longer ones? Starting in January, Rev. Dale Kelley will be offering an interactive, lively "short series" of FOUR classes for folks who may be:

- 1) interested in joining Community UMC;
- 2) already a member, but would love to know more about our denomination; or
- 3) neither of the above and are just interested in "what the United Methodists are all about".

You just may learn something you never knew before! To ward off chilly night time driving, we'll be offering our discussions over a "home-cooked" hot lunch during the week, beginning on each TUESDAY, January 8, 15, 22 and 29. Materials will be provided at no cost.

If you are interested, we'd love to have you participate with us, even if you can't make every class! To sign up, please call Melanie at the church office, 360-385-1579, or email her at cumc@olympus.net.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

During the worship service on November 25th seven new members were welcomed into CUMC by transfer. One more big welcome to new members (pictured left to right) Don & Judy Olsen, Dale Kelley, Patty Miller, Joan Flowers, Bill & Wendi Metzger.



*Socktober was a great success.
Thanks for the warmth!*

Be a Blessing!

Join the church in hosting the worship service at Life Care Center on Sunday, December 2nd at 2:00pm.



Join us for two Special Worship Services this month:

Friday, December 21st	7:00pm	The Longest Night
Monday, December 24th	6:00pm	Christmas Eve

Special Worship Services

December 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship 2:00pm Worship Service at Life Care Center	3 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	4 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Singers in the Rain Practice	5 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	6 7-8pm AI-Anon Meeting	7 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Hula Class	1 <hr/> 8
9 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	10 10:30am-12pm Memory Caregiver Support Group 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	11 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Singers in the Rain Practice	12 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	13 7-8pm AI-Anon Meeting	14 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Hula Class	15 8am Men's Breakfast
16 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	17 Newsletter Articles Due 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	18 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Singers in the Rain Practice	19 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	20 7-8pm AI-Anon Meeting	21 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Hula Class 7pm Longest Night Service	22
23 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts 6pm Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> Church Offices Closed 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	26 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	27 7-8pm AI-Anon Meeting	28 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Hula Class	29
30 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts					

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Monthly Devotional

Our Daily Bread, December 25, 2017

I bring you good news that will cause great joy . . . a Savior has been born to you. Luke 2:10-11

Traditions and Christmas

As you savor a candy cane this Christmas, say “danke schön” to the Germans, for that confectionary treat was first created in Cologne. As you admire your poinsettia, say “gracias” to Mexico, where the plant originated. Say “merci beaucoup” to the French for the term *noel*, and give a “cheers” to the English for your mistletoe.

But as we enjoy our traditions and festivities of the Christmas season—customs that have been collected from around the world—let’s save our most sincere and heartfelt “thank you” for our good, merciful, and loving God. From Him came the reason for our Christmas celebration: the baby born in that Judean manger more than 2,000 years ago. An angel announced the arrival of this gift to mankind by saying, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy . . . a Savior has been born to you” (Luke 2:10–11).

This Christmas, even in the light of the sparkling Christmas tree and surrounded by newly opened presents, the true excitement comes when we turn our attention to the baby named Jesus, who came to “save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). His birth transcends tradition: It is our central focus as we send praises to God for this indescribable Christmas gift.

By Dave Branon

Lord, we thank You for coming to join us on that first Christmas.
During a time of the year filled with many traditions, help us to keep You first.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.
Romans 15:13



Community United Methodist Church

Open Hearts Open Doors Open Minds

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1165
Physical Address: 130 Church Lane
Port Hadlock, WA 98339

Phone: 360.385.1579
Church office email: cumc@olympus.net

Church Office Hours:
10am - 2pm, Tuesday - Friday

Web Site: www.HadlockChurch.com

Learning Circle: 9:00am
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