

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

November 2019

Pastor's Pen



Becoming a Scrappy Church

By Scott Rosekrans

Last month Henry Jones and I attended a Small Church Workshop that was designed to come up with ways to help small churches that showed some life to survive and become relevant in their communities. We were glad for the invite and I truly believe that we are not in peril of closing or not being relevant. But I'm not writing to talk about the workshop. I'm writing to talk about two books I read by the same author. The facilitator had us read Autopsy of a Deceased Church by Thom S. Rainer which I had already read a couple of times beforehand. I told them I had just read his most recent book entitled Scrappy Church which was about churches that were surviving and thriving and what they were doing differently. In any event, the following is my take-away from the two books and as you read this, think about your church and what boxes you might check off, good or bad.

In Autopsy of a Deceased Church the author says that churches die because they no longer have vision. Right to the point! He says that God's Church will never die, but there are churches out there that are dying daily. Church decline is like erosion. It happens slowly and you often don't realize it until it's too late. These churches long for the good old days, the way it used to be and that's the way they want it to become today. You can't live in the past. You can't focus on your needs over the needs of others. A church has to look outward and not inward. Your priority can't be that's the way we've always done it and that's what makes me the most comfortable. If you're not making an effort to get out into the community, you can't expect the community to come to you. The author says that when you cease to have a heart for ministry in the community, you (the church) are on the path towards death. He says that in humility, you have to consider others as more important than yourself. Vibrant and living churches, he says, look after the interests of others. He says if you "follow the money" you will learn much about a church. Where the money goes, so does the heart.

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Pastor's Pen

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By Scott Rosekrans

He said that dying churches stopped inviting their unchurched friends and relatives to church. They became focused on what they wanted, their references, what made them feel good. They didn't want to get out of their comfort zone. (I had a person leave the church after one of my sermons because it made him/her uncomfortable. He/she told me they came to church to feel better about him/herself.) He said to beware of the pastor that takes the path of least resistance, the one who prefers death to conflict, the pastor who becomes a caretaker rather than a risk taker in the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The pastor who is too comfortable.

The author said that prayer and the health of a church go hand-in-hand. Meaningful prayer leads to the cause and the result of greater church health. No prayer, no hope. He points out that a church with no clear purpose is just playing church and not being the church. When you want to do it the way you've always done it, you've lost your purpose. You have to live and share the gospel, the gospel that is other-centered, not self-centered. He says that a church without a gospel-centered purpose is no longer a church at all.

But, take heart, in his book entitled: *Scrappy Church, God's Not Done Yet*, he says there are people out there who want their church to make a difference. They realize that God wants them to become a potent force for Him in their community. They see the power of God working in their church every week. Did you get that? Every week! They are excited about the present and the future. They don't see limitations, they only see God's possibilities. They tell themselves that they have everything they need, and what they don't have God will supply. (Philippians 4: 19) The author says that these churches believe that God has a plan for their church, and they work to live into that plan. They've increased their efforts on outward focus as opposed to the one or two big emphases a year. Their outreach is not just seasonal, it's on-going. They have three levels of outreach: sustained, seasonal and special. If you have all three, I believe you are well on your way to becoming "that" church. He encourages congregations to move towards a deluge or flood of outward ministry. He points out that your members will add capacity if they feel like they are doing something meaningful. He states very clearly that church health is more than numbers. He asks; if we closed, would our neighbors notice?

He says that Scrappy Churches don't have a victim mentality. They are constantly seeking to improve and are continuous learners. Scrappy Churches set high expectations for their church. They raise the bar and do not want to live in mediocrity. They stick to the basics and make that their strength. They show love to the community around them, the love of Jesus Christ. They rise to the challenge and eat the elephant one bite at a time.

I think we are becoming a Scrappy Church and my goal for the coming year is to work harder on our scrappiness. I plan on buying copies of *Scrappy Church* for our new Administrative Council to read and then to brainstorm on how we can fully live into the gospel and be the kind of church God wants and needs right here in our community, to be "that" church.





Of Bread, Fish and Socks

By Scott Rosekrans

In October for the past two years, we've declared the month "Socktober" month, where I encourage my congregation to bring me their holy socks, not their socks with holes in them. I ask them to think of things that get cold like feet, hands, necks, and heads and what would make them warm. I suggest that they go to their coat closet and look for those extra gloves, scarves, and hats they no longer wear, but someone else would gladly like. New is great, but gently worn is fine. That said, there is nothing like the feeling of putting on a brand-new pair of socks.

Socktober is a small short-term mission where we hope to collect a couple of hundred pairs of socks to distribute to a few of the non-profits we support who can get them to those who could use them. It's a great bonding experience, and I make a big deal every Sunday morning over what shows up on the pulpit, and it's a lot less messy than burnt offerings.



Socks R Us! So far, we've distributed 1,400 of them.

Scott Rosekrans

In any event, through these mini-missions, we've managed to develop an excellent working relationship with one of our local food banks (we have four in the county). We recently got a call from the manager of the Quilcene Food Bank advising that she had gotten a phone call from the Boeing Blue Bills saying they had some Bomba socks and wondered if she might be interested. She knew she had no place to store the socks, and distributing food is challenging enough, but she knew who could.

She called us on a Sunday night and said they were picking up a shipment of a lot of socks and asked if we could come to get them on Monday morning. Sure, I think that's in my calendar right after putting the trash can out on Monday morning. So off I went to the food bank to pick up the socks. Eleven good-sized boxes containing 2,750 pairs of new Bomba socks. (Every pastor should be required to have a pick-up truck for such occasions.)

Two of the other food banks heard of our windfall and asked for some socks. So, on Tuesday, we distributed over 400 pairs of socks between three food banks with a promise to bring more each week as we determine what other agencies in our county could use the socks.

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Of Bread, Fish, and Socks

by Scott Rosecrans

The disciples hadn't planned on well over 5,000 men, women, and children flocking to hear Jesus teach and heal and probably only had enough food for themselves. They saw their only option was to turn the people away to fend for themselves. That's not what Followers of the Way do, as Jesus was soon to demonstrate. Through God, what was needed was provided, and all the disciples had to do was distribute it.

If Jesus had come to me and said, "I've got a couple of thousand people in your county that need socks, and I want you to see to it," my response would have been similar to that of the disciples. "We're a small church and that many socks would run well over \$15,000! Maybe we should send them to Goodwill." So, Jesus said, "Hold my coffee; watch this."

As Jesus said in Matthew 19:26, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." We need to become more aware of what's going on in our communities and look to the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction. We need to be people who find solutions to problems and not problems with solutions

If we genuinely try to show our love to our neighbor by actually seeing to their needs, their daily bread, the Holy Spirit will step in and take us in directions we could never have imagined in our small and limited human way of thinking. Jesus wants us to get in there and give it our best effort, and, when we least expect it, a miracle happens.

I can't wait until February which we designate as "Underweary" month.

Scott Rosecrans serves as pastor to the people of Community United Methodist Church in Port Hadlock, Washington.

PNW Conference | Oct 15, 2019 at 8:53 am | URL: <https://wp.me/p2l75j-5jf>



Don and Larry rebuilding a trailer for **Habitat for Humanity**.



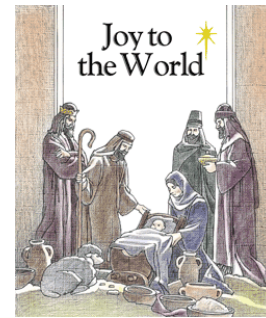
“LIGHT of the WORLD”

A Four Week Advent Study

Led by Rev. Dale Kelley

Sunday Afternoons, 4:00 – 5:30

December 1, 8, 15, 22 Accompanied By
Hearty Soup and Homemade Bread



By Dale Kelley

During the four weeks of Advent as we journey toward the birth of Jesus, we will explore the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Using short video clips by author, professor, and biblical scholar, Amy-Jill Levine, as well as material by her, we'll explore the prophecies that foretold of the Messiah's birth.

We will be there when the angel visits Mary with his amazing announcement to her as well as his revelation about her cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy. We'll follow Mary to visit Elizabeth and Zechariah. We'll be in the field with the Heavenly Host when they visit the frightened shepherds, and we'll be with the infant Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the Stable. We'll also follow the Star with the Magi and see the deeper meaning of both their visit and their gifts.

All are invited on this Advent journey to the Stable ... and beyond! Come even if you can't make it every week! Because we will order books for each participant, let the church office know if you are interested. 360-385-1579 - OR - cumc@olympus.net



My granddaughter made her own Jesus Cup that she keeps in her room for spare change she saves for the Quilcene Food Bank. Never too young to make a difference

THAT CHURCH

Our New Welcoming Banner

Quilcene Food Bank

Taking bags of bean soup to the food bank and picking up more beans.



SOCKTOBER 2019!

Picking up a load of socks donated to the Quilcene Food Bank by the Boeing Blue Bills. 2,750 pairs of socks!



Quilcene Food Bank –Volunteers Needed

Fundraising – Work from Home

Grant Writer – Need help raising money by apply for grants from foundations.

Graphic Artist – Need help designing post cards for New Building Campaign.

Quilcene Food Bank -Volunteers Needed

2 Volunteers Needed – Tuesdays 8:00am-11am - Drive to Port Townsend, help divide food, load on pallets and drive to Quilcene Food Bank. Once at Quilcene Food Bank, unload truck to freezer, refrigerator and storage rooms. **Must be able to lift 25 pounds.**

2 Volunteers Needed – Tuesdays 9:30am-11am - Organize storage room to maximize space, pull out expired or close to expire food for distribution on Wednesday. Help unload truck to freezer, refrigerator and storage rooms. **Must be able to lift 25 pounds.**

Setup Volunteers – Wednesdays 7:30am-10:30am - Help pull food from supply rooms and bring out to tables in community room, set up food on tables/shelves. **Must be able to lift 25 pounds.**

Teardown Volunteers-Wednesday 2:00pm-3:00pm - Help put all food away in supply rooms. Break down tables and chairs and put away in closet. Help clean-up. **Must be able to lift 25 pounds.**

Pick Up Food Caller – Call food stores to see if we can pick up close to expiring foods and communicate with pick up volunteers.

Driver/Pick Up - We need volunteers to pick up food from specific stores on specific days in Jefferson and King County. You can volunteer once a week or more, it's up to you.



Email: Volunteer@JeffersonCountyFoodBanks.org

Call: 360.328.1275





The Least of These

By Scott Rosekrans



A couple of weeks ago I was asked by one of our members what this Benevolence Fund was that I kept referring to in my Sunday morning announcements and weekly emails. Good question, I thought, and if he didn't know what I was referring to then probably many others were also in the dark.

We have a Benevolence Fund which was created long before I got here. When I asked about it the former pastor, Rev. Julia Price, explained that it was a fund created by several generous donors for her to use to help people who came by the church needing financial assistance. I observed that she had kept a binder to keep a record of who came in, what they needed and what was given. Usually the need was for gas or groceries and a QFC Card was usually handed out. Other times there were different needs like rent, utilities and auto repairs for example. It's great having such a resource when someone comes in for help.

There is hardly a week that goes by that I don't have someone come by seeking help. There are some that we've helped on several occasions. When they come in for the first time I sit and visit with them to learn more about their situation. I explain that the more I know about them the better I can help them as our church supports several non-profits designed to help people in need. That's why we created our Jefferson County Emergency Resources card that I hand out with important information on it. I show a genuine interest in their situation and try to offer words of encouragement. At the very least, they leave with a QFC card and a prayer. Here lately, they've also left with a bag or two of our famous bean soup mix and a couple of pairs of new socks. As they are leaving, I always thank them for coming to us and that if they ever need anything else, to please come back. I then follow the visit up with a personal note of encouragement and sometimes include a \$10.00 Starbucks gift card telling them to have a cup of coffee on their friends at CUMC. Recently, Adam at Ferino's Pizza gave me some free meal cards to hand out so, depending upon the situation, I may send one or two of those cards. So, when you go to Ferino's and get your card stamped bring it by when it's full and give it to me and I'll pass it on in one of my follow-up notes. (Remember to thank Adam when you go in for a pizza.) I've heard back from some of these folks, and they really appreciate being thought of in this way.

So how do we keep this fund in the black? Another good question. Because we are known as "that" church people actually send us money from time to time, which I put in the Benevolence Fund and if someone passes away and I do the Celebration of Life, I suggest that any donations in honor of the deceased be made to the Benevolence Fund. Sometimes, I get a little nervous when we've had several requests at a time, but then we get a generous gift or donation. It's very gratifying to be in a position to help people who find themselves in a difficult position. What we give them may not solve all their problems, but they truly appreciate that we are so willing to help.

We're all familiar with Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25: 31-46 when he talked about when he was hungry and was given food, when he was thirsty and was given drink, when he was a stranger and was welcomed, when he was naked he was clothed, when he was sick he was taken care of, and when he was in prison he was visited. When asked by the disciples when they did such things he replied; *I assure you that when you have done it for one of least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you have done it for me.*

Of all the ministries we perform this very personal and intimate one is, to me, the most important as it's one-on-one and very spiritual. If you'd like to contribute to this very worthwhile mission, it doesn't take much. Anything helps. You can just send a check with Benevolence Fund in the memo line or, if you want, you can even go to QFC and buy a card or two. I usually keep various sizes between \$25.00 to \$50.00 depending upon the need. When we're doing something for one of the least of these, we're doing it for Jesus. How wonderful it is to be the answer to someone's prayers. They may even praise God that we exist.



Halloween Party Photos from October 27th. Pictures by Scott Rosekrans



Mystery Munchies and
Spooky Treats!



Looking for
Low-Income
Housing
in Jefferson County?



Please Join Us

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019: **1pm-3pm**

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019: **3pm-5pm**

Tuesday, January 7, 2020: **1pm-3pm**

In the Shold Room, at the **Jefferson County**
Library

A volunteer from Bayside Housing will be available to answer
questions and assist with filling out the applications.

BIRTHDAYS

2 Wendy Metzer
 5 Richard Christopher
 9 Bill Metzer
 10 Janet Stevenson
 11 Barb Sweet
 12 Carolyn Allen
 21 Cindi Jones

ALTAR FLOWERS

3 Pat Chase
 10 Liz Hazen
 17 Billy Fitch
 24

COMMUNION SERVERS

3 Ted and Stephanie

COUNTERS

3 Debbie/Mike
 10 Betty P./Patty M.
 17 Marsha/Lori
 24 Diane/Connie R.

GREETERS

3 Bob Linrothe
 10 Julie Boggs
 17 Judy Olsen
 24 Marcy Wootan

HOSPITALITY

3 Debbie Dodd
 10 Cindi Jones/Betty P.
 17 Patty Miller/Connie R.
 24 Potluck

LITURGISTS

3 Betty Prentice
 10 Marcy Wootan
 17
 24

SUNDAY SCHOOL

3 Audrey/Larry
 10 Stephen
 17 Julie B.
 24 Kathy

USHERS

3 Jackie D./
 10 Marsha/Mike
 17 AJ/Stephanie B.
 24 Pat Cooper

OUR PRAYERS

- * For Hank's prayers to be answered.
- * For Marge's recovery.
- * For Lisa and family in their time of loss.
- * The homeless, the hungry and the unemployed.
- * For Lil's sister who died and family, give them support and love.
- * For Wanda's swift recovery from surgery.
- * For Jerry and family in their time of loss, give them lots of love.
- * For Peace on Earth!
- * For both Bryan and George, and their respective families, support and love in their time of loss.
- * For Gerry's swift recovery from surgery.
- * For Debbie's healing of her wrist.

**PRAISES**

Praises for Nancy , back from a successful pilgrimage.

Praises for Pat's angel patterns which are well received.

NOVEMBER LECTIONARY READINGSNovember 3

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
 Psalm 149
 Ephesians 1:11-23
 Luke 6: 20-31

November 10

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
 Psalm 145:1-5
 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17
 Luke 20:27-38

November 17

Isaiah 65:17-25
 Psalm 118
 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
 Luke 21:5-19

November 24

Jeremiah 23:1-6
 Luke 1:68-69
 Colossians 1:11-20
 Luke 23: 33-43

Finance Report for October 2019

Income:

Frontal Rental	500.00
Parsonage Rental	1,414.00
Pledges/Non-Pledges	4,852.00
Cash Offering	327.00
Misc. Income	20.00
Total	7,113.00

Expenses:

Apportionments	1,281.35
Local Ministry/Conf.	1,037.41
Total Operating Expense	1,355.11
Payroll and Taxes	6931.36
Total	10,605.23

Surplus/(Deficit) for September 2019 = (\$3,492.23)



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:

January:	ECHHO	\$350.00
February:	Food Bank	\$594.50
March:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
April:	ECHHO	\$370.00
May:	Food Bank	\$350.00
June:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
July:	ECHHO	\$350.00
August:	Food Bank	\$350.00
September:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
October:	ECHHO	\$350.00
November:	Food Bank	\$250.00
December:	OlyCAP	\$



***"Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might
be to our God
forever and ever! Amen."***

Revelation 7:12, NRSV

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				WMW Business Meeting, 10am 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	1 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Praise Hula Class	2
9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship MISSION MEETING after church	3 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	4 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library) Chicks In Stitches, 2pm Singers in the Rain Re- hearsal 7pm	5	6 UMW Meeting 10:00am 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	7	8 9
10 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	11 Newsletter Articles Due Memory Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom) 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	12 Chicks in Stitches 2pm 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library) Singers in the Rain Re- hearsal 7pm	13	14 10:00am UMW Pea Soup Making Mission 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	15 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Praise Hula Class	16 8:00am Men's Breakfast
17 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	18 Eastern Star and Bean Soup Mission, 1pm— 3pm 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	19 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library) Singers in the Rain Re- hearsal 7pm	20	21 Fleece Scarfs Mission 10:00am 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	22 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Praise Hula Class	23
24 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	25 5:30-7:30pm Boy/Cub Scouts	26 Chicks in Stitches 2:00pm 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library) Singers in the Rain Re- hearsal, 7pm	27	28 HOLIDAY— THANKSGIVING 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting		

Monthly Devotion

November 2019

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

Psalm 23

The word *connected* captures our contemporary experience of life. Many people rarely go anywhere without a cell phone, iPod, laptop, or pager. We have become accessible 24 hours a day. Some psychologists see this craving to stay connected as an addiction. Yet a growing number of people are deliberately limiting their use of technology. Being a “tech-no” is their way of preserving times of quiet, while limiting the flow of information into their lives.

Many followers of Christ find that a daily time of Bible reading and prayer is essential in their walk of faith. This “quiet time” is a disconnection from external distractions in order to connect with God. The “green pastures” and “still waters” of Psalm 23:2 are more than an idyllic country scene. They speak of our communion with God whereby He restores our souls and leads us in His paths (v.3).

All of us can make time to meet with God, but do we? In Robert Foster’s booklet “7 Minutes With God,” he suggests a way to begin: Start with a brief prayer for guidance, then read the Bible for a few minutes, and close with a short time of prayer that includes adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication for others. It’s vital to take time today to connect with the Lord, who is our life.

By: **David C. McCasland**

**Community United Methodist Church**

Open Hearts Open Doors Open Minds

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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