

Those who participated last year found it to be a most rewarding experience and I invite you to take part this year. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to indicate how you are able to help. Please mark your calendars and sign up. If you have questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your continued support of those in need. Faithfully,

Diane Jensen, 402-290-1220 or dcjensen@abbnebraska.com

Photos by Scott Rosekrans

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By Scott Rosekrans

In the eighth chapter of the gospel of Matthew we are told that Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of he harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* (vs. 35-38)

Jesus, unlike the priests of the day, made it a point to get out and meet the people where they were and how they lived. What Matthew is telling us is that if your view of people or society is based upon who you see in the pews every Sunday or your friends and family, you really aren't seeing the big picture. What I like about the Gospel of Matthew is that it is full of stories of Jesus stopping what he was doing to tend to the needs of someone he either saw or some person that was brought to him for healing. He didn't quiz them on their condition or their circumstances or how they got in such pitiful shape. He didn't judge them, tell them what they did wrong, or tell them what they needed to do. He did what he could to meet their needs because he was "moved with compassion for them."

As look back at 2019, I think that was a year of great compassion for our church. CUMC has always been a compassionate church with roots that run deep in the community, but this year we saw a shift in our outreach. We saw the creation of our Missions Work Room and Clothes Closet which will take us to the next level of compassionate care for those who are "weary and scattered like sheep having no shepherd." I am so thankful to serve a church that is so kind and caring that gives me the leeway to stop and address the needs of those I meet without having to run it by a committee. When these people come in for help, I do talk with them and get some information that will help me in determining what resources should be accessed, even if it is only a QFC gift card. I allow them to share their story with me and I listen with a compassionate ear. And, after I've done all I can, I ask them if there is any-thing more we can do for them. Their usual response is no. At that point, I send them off with a prayer thanking God for sending them to us and get them to promise that they'll come back if they need anything else.

What this experience over the past several years has done is to have given me a better than average knowledge of the plight of those who live in our community and not to lump them all into one group thereby stereo-typing or vilifying them. For the most part, these are decent people who, for whatever reason, find themselves in pretty dire straits. So, what do we do with this knowledge? We discussed this at our last Administrative Council meeting in December and all agreed that we need to do more to shine a light on the problem. Being that 2020 is an election year for our elected county, state and federal officials, we are going to reach out and do what we can to make them aware of what we see in our community and urge them to do more than talk about it, as has been the case in the past. We want to let them know that we, as a church, are concerned with what we see, that we are do-ing all we can, and that we expect them to serve the interests of all their constituents, even the ones who don't vote. As we've learned through our ever-expanding mission effort, there are many ways to approach a problem and we want to encourage our elected officials to be creative.

The homeless-employment-housing issue is big and, like eating an elephant, you do it by one bite at a time. I think we can use our experiences at Community to show them that you can make a difference by starting small and that those little successes build momentum and confidence and lead to bigger successes as other buy into what is being done. We are living proof that a determined people can make a difference if they are compassionate and committed to what they are doing.

Pray for me, our church leadership and our church as we enter this new year with a renewed sense of serving God and shepherding the weary and scattered sheep.

Faithfully, Scott

January 3, Epiphany, 2020



OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



### A Pastoral Letter for Epiphany 2020

### United Methodists of the Greater Northwest,

What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out... We saw the glory with our own eyes... Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. John 1, The Message

This morning United Methodists around the world received a word of hope that the strife that has racked our Church might find a peaceful end. A group of sixteen United Methodist leaders from around the world, who hold a wide range of theological and social convictions, have negotiated protocols for a graceful separation within The United Methodist Church. If adopted by the General Conference in May, the proposal would:

- Maintain The United Methodist Church intact.
- Allow local churches and annual conferences that choose not to remain affiliated with The United Methodist Church to leave, while maintaining their property, assets, and liabilities.
- Commit \$39 million to racial and ethnic inclusion and anti-racism work.
- Convene the first session of the post-separation United Methodist Church, perhaps before leaving Minneapolis in May, to create four regional conferences.
- Allow for the first session of the newly established North American Regional Conference to act on proposals to remove prohibitive language regarding LGBTQ clergy and weddings. In the meantime, signers to the Protocol have agreed to abeyance on complaints against clergy for related offenses.

While this is not the resolution I hope for, I believe it may be the best next step for the people called United Methodists who have been unable to find a way forward that maintains the unity of the Church. It does not move the Church toward Christ's vision that we "may all be one...so that the world may believe" (John 17:21), but it is a faithful effort "to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3), even as we find it necessary to walk separate paths for a season.

I trust this proposal is designed to unbind us from our "irreconcilable differences" and free us to focus on the future. It does not guarantee a particular outcome, but it appears to offer United Methodists in the United States the opportunity to choose a future that is fully inclusive of LGBTQ persons.

Please read the attached proposal, asking prayerfully whether it offers Life and

Light as we seek to create a new movement of Wesleyan faithfulness in the Northwest and around the world.

May the Life of Christ live in us, and the Light of Christ lead us into the future,

· Elamine Sto Stanosting

Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky

PRESS RELEASE:

### United Methodist Traditionalists, Centrists, Progressives & Bishops sign agreement aimed at separation

1/2/2020 - Bishop News Ministries



Members of the Mediation Team.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 3, 2020 (Washington, D.C.) - A diverse group of representatives from United Methodist advocacy groups with contrasting views and bishops from around the world has collaborated on a proposed agreement for the separation of The United Methodist Church (UMC) that has the unanimous support of all the parties involved.

The agreement, the <u>Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation</u>, was achieved on December 17, 2019, and announced today.

The action comes amid heightened tensions in the church over conflicting views related to human sexuality after the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference failed to resolve differences among church members.

Legislation to implement <u>the Protocol statement</u> — an eight-page document detailing the terms of a split of the 13+ million-member denomination — is expected to come before the United Methodist General Conference for a vote at their legislative meeting in Minneapolis, Minn. in May 2020.

The 16-member group came together as an outgrowth of a consultation initiated by bishops from Central Conferences located outside the United States. The parties sought assistance from prominent attorney Kenneth Feinberg, who specializes in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. Feinberg, who served as Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and administrator of the BP Deepwater Horizon Disaster Victim Compensation Fund, along with a number of other complex matters, agreed to provide his services pro bono.

Meeting over several months, the unofficial group reached an agreement by signatories associated with all of the constituencies within the UMC for a mutually supported pathway for separation, bridging differences among other plans to be considered by the General Conference. "The undersigned propose restructuring The United Methodist Church by separation as the best means to resolve our differences, allowing each part of the Church to remain true to its theological understanding, while recognizing the dignity, equality, integrity, and respect of every person," says the Protocol Statement.

The document's signers include representatives from Europe, Africa, the Philippines, and the United States, and include persons representing UMCNext; Mainstream UMC; Uniting Methodists; The Confessing Movement; Good News; The Institute on Religion & Democracy; the Wesleyan Covenant Association; Affirmation; Methodist Federation for Social Action; Reconciling Ministries Network; and the United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus; as well as bishops from the United States and across the world. The representatives have pledged to work together to support the proposal and develop legislation to implement it.

The Protocol anticipates the formation of a new traditionalist Methodist denomination. Once formed, the new church would receive \$25 million over the next four years and give up further claim to the UMC's assets. An additional \$2 million would be allocated for potential additional new Methodist denominations which may emerge from the UMC. Acknowledging the historical role of the Methodist movement in systematic racial violence, exploitation and discrimination, the Protocol would allocate \$39 million to ensure there is no disruption in supporting ministries for communities historically marginalized by racism. Under the Protocol, conferences and local congregations could vote to separate from The United Methodist Church to affiliate with new Methodist denominations created under the agreement within a certain time frame. Churches wishing to stay within the UMC would not be required to conduct a vote. Provisions exist for entities that choose to separate to retain their assets and liabilities. All current clergy and lay employees would keep their pensions regardless of the Methodist denomination with which they affiliate.

Under the Protocol, all administrative or judicial processes addressing restrictions in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist* related to self-avowed practicing homosexuals or same-sex weddings, as well as actions to close churches, would be held in abeyance until the separation is completed. The Protocol also references a plan which calls for a special general conference of the post-separation United Methodist Church. The purpose of the Special Session would be to create regional conferences, remove the current prohibitions against LGBTQ persons, and to repeal the Traditional Plan.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Bishop John Yambasu (Sierra Leone) stated, "All of us are servants of the church and realize that we are not the primary decision makers on these matters. Instead, we humbly offer to the delegates of the 2020 General Conference the work which we have accomplished in the hopes that it will help heal the harms and conflicts within the body of Christ and free us to be more effective witnesses to God's Kingdom."

The signatories to the Protocol have provided a <u>FAQ document</u> to provide additional information about the agreement. Comments and questions may be directed to the signatories at <u>mediationprotocol@outlook.com</u>.

A livestream event will take place on Monday, January 13, at 9:30 am (EST) to provide further clarity and explanations of the plan by members of the Mediation Team.

This statement is being released by the Council of Bishops Office on behalf of the Mediation Team members.

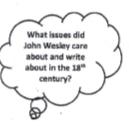
#### ###

#### Members of the Mediation Team

- Bishop Christian Alsted (bishop@umc-ne.org), Nordic-Baltic Episcopal Area
- Rev. Thomas Berlin (<u>tberlin@florisumc.org</u>), representing UMCNext, Mainstream UMC, Uniting Methodists
- Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton (bishop@nvac.com), New York Episcopal Area
- Rev. Keith Boyette (president@wesleyancovenant.org), representing The Confessing Movement, Good News, IRD/UM Action, and the Wesleyan Covenant Association
- Bishop Kenneth H. Carter (bishop@flumc.org), Florida Episcopal Area
- Rev. Junius Dotson (jdotson@umcdiscipleship.org), representing UMCNext, Mainstream UMC, United Methodists
- Bishop LaTrelle Easterling (bishopeasterling@gmail.com), Washington Episcopal Area
- Rev. Egmedio "Jun" Equila, Jr. (jun@brmc.org.sg), Philippines Central Conference
- Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey (bishop@la-umc.org), Louisiana Episcopal Area
- Bishop Rodolfo Rudy Juan (bishoprudyjuan@gmail.com), Davao Episcopal Area, Philippines

- Janet Lawrence (jan@rmnetwork.org), representing Affirmation, Methodist Federation for Social Action, and Reconciling Ministries Network
- Rev. David Meredith (<u>dmeredith@cliftonumc.com</u>), representing Affirmation, Methodist Federation for Social Action, and Reconciling Ministries Network, member of UM Queer Clergy Caucus
- Patricia Miller (pmiller1224@gmail.com), representing The Confessing Movement, Good News, IRD/UM Action, and the Wesleyan Covenant Association
- Dr. Randall Miller (randall4015@hotmail.com), representing Affirmation, Methodist Federation for Social Action, and Reconciling Ministries Network
- Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer (wocbishop@woc.org), Ohio West Episcopal Area
- Bishop John K. Yambasu (bishopyambasu@gmail.com), Sierra Leone Episcopal Ar

#### JOHN WESLEY'S MANIFESTO





- 1. Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people
- 2. Help everyone to have a job
- 3. Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage
- 4. Offer the best possible education
- 5. Help everyone to feel they can make a difference
- 6. Promote tolerance
- 7. Promote equal treatment for women
- 8. Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism
- 9. End all forms of slavery
- 10. Avoid getting into wars
- 11. Share the love of God with everyone
- 12. Care for the environment

# THAT CHURCH

### Our Welcoming Banner



### **"To Ski or Not to Ski"** By Scott Rosekrans

I told a little story on my granddaughter Eva last Sunday. For preachers, grandchildren provide a wealth of sermon material. Eva is seven and this is her church. She's been coming here for over three years and is involved. She appreciates all the special attention she gets from the abundance of grandparents who are so warm and welcoming. And, because this is her church she wants to contribute.

My Jesus Cup is a standing joke with her as every time she sees some spare change, she comments that she knows where it's going, the Jesus Cup. We've told her that the Jesus Cup money goes to support the Quilcene Food Bank so a couple of months ago she made her own "Jesis" Cup to keep in her room to put spare change in. We were talking about it not long ago and I learned she was somewhat conflicted about putting all her money in the Jesis Cup because they also had a ski jug at home that they put money in to pay for skiing. I told her that was okay because God didn't expect her to give all her money and I explained the concept of tithing and giving the first ten percent to God, like if you have a dollar, give God a dime. That seemed to satisfy her as now she could do both. As luck would have it, we had Eva and Peder over the winter break, so they accompanied Teresa to the Quilcene Food Bank to volunteer. Teresa pointed out the Senior Table and explained that it was because of the Jesus Cup that they could have a special table just for seniors. This seemed to impress her as she now saw a connection between her spare change and what we were able to do with it. She told her grandmother that every time she comes to visit, she'll be bringing money from her "Jesis" Cup.

What a great lesson in tithing and giving out of love. God doesn't want all our money. He wants us to enjoy the fruits of our labor, but he would like the first fruits of our harvest to be used in doing his will and his work. Eva saw what God was able to do with our spare change and she wanted to be a part of the mission. Think of how much more can be done if we get serious about our tithing and time. I know that ten percent is the rule of thumb but I'm not asking for that. If you can, great. What I would like you to do is to sit down and look at what you have and determine what percentage you can faithfully give. It may just be two percent but if faithfully given, great. Then, every-so-often examine where you are and see if you can raise it a percent or two. And, if tithing isn't a possibility, what can you do with your time. I had a longtime member tell me recently that she can't give what she used to but she can certainly help make bean soup mix and fire starters.

What we've learned here at the church is that the more we do with what we have, the more God gives us to do, and we never seem to be without. It's this faithful giving and service that enables us a church to grow in our outreach as we work to make a difference to God's people in our community and as far as we can reach. It's why we are getting a reputation in the community for being "that" church.



### **CREATING CONNECTIONS**

January 2020

|                            | BIRTHDAYS  |                     | HOSPITALITY   | OUR PRAYERS  |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------|---|--|
| <b>5</b><br>12<br>19<br>26 | Marcia Wootan<br>Judy Olsen<br>Liz Hazen   | 5<br>12<br>19<br>26 | Wendi Metzer<br>Potluck                                     | <ul> <li>The homeless, the hungry<br/>and the unemployed.</li> <li>For Peace on Earth!</li> <li>For wisdom for our<br/>leaders.</li> </ul>                             |
|                            | ALTAR FLOWERS  |                     | LITURGISTS  | * For Gladys that she get<br>better soon.  |
| 5<br>12<br>19<br>26        | Marcia Wootan<br>Judy Olsen<br>Liz Hazen<br>A.J.   | 5<br>12<br>19<br>26 | Marcia Wootan<br>Liz Hazen<br>Bill Metzer<br>Diane Johnson  | <ul> <li>For Suzan that she recove<br/>from her breast cancer.</li> <li>For Dave and Jerry that<br/>they recover from their<br/>surgery quickly &amp; well.</li> </ul> |
| СО                         | MMUNION SERVERS  |                     |   | * For Joan that she get  |
| 5                          |  | 5                   | SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>Kathy                                      | soon.  |
|                            | COUNTERS   | 12<br>19            | Debbie<br>Stephen   |  |
| 5<br>12<br>19<br>26        | Debbie D./Mike P.<br>Patty M./Betty P.<br>Marsha/Lori O.<br>Johnson, D./Connie   | 26                  | Audrey & Larry USHERS                                       | PRAISES<br>Praises and Thanksgiving tha<br>we are "That Church" whos<br>members take action to hel<br>where needed in our commun                                       |
|                            | GREETERS   | 5                   | Bill & Wendi Metzer<br>Marsha/Mike P.                       | ty.  |
| 5<br>12<br>19<br>26        | Marcia Wootan<br>John Sweet<br>Bev R.<br>Diane Jensen  | 19<br>26            | Ted & Stephanie B.<br>A.J./Pat Cooper                       |  |
|                            |  | JANU                | ARY LECTIONARY RE   | ADINGS   |
| <u>Janu</u>                | ary 5 January 12   | 2                   | January 19  | January 26   |
| Ps 72<br>Eph               | n 60:1-6       Isaiah 42:1         :1-7,10-14       Ps 29         3:1-12       Acts 10:34         2:1-12       Matt 3:13-2 | -43                 | Isaiah 49:1-7<br>Ps  40:1-11<br>1 Cor 1:1-9<br>John 1:29-42 | Isaiah 9:1-4<br>Ps 27:1, 4-9<br>1 Cor 1:10-18<br>Matt 4:12-23  |

11

# Community United Methodist Church

A United Methodist Congregation Serving East Jefferson County

130 Church Lane P.O. Box 1165 Port Hadlock, WA 98339

360-385-1579 cumc@olympus.net Scott Rosekrans, Pastor

1/08/20

Representative Derek Kilmer 1429 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Re: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Dear Representative Kilmer,

At the urging of my Administrative Council I am writing you regarding our concern over proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP. It has been reported that hundreds of thousands of people are expected to lose food assistance this spring when the new rules are put into effect.

These changes are premised upon the belief that these "able-bodied" adults should be required to work a minimum of 20 hours a week. The logic behind this is mind-numbing and shows a true lack of understanding of the situation. As the pastor of Community United Methodist Church, I can only speak to what I know about what we call the Tri-Area; Port Hadlock, Irondale and Chimacum. Over the past three plus years we have seen a steady stream of people come by the church seeking assistance in one form or another. Generally, they need help in purchasing gas and groceries which we gladly meet through giving them a QFC gift card. As I talk to them in an effort to better understand their circumstances, I learn more about their desires for affordable housing and employment. We have many resources in Jefferson County and I make the appropriate referrals in hopes they can obtain additional assistance. The assistance CUMC provides is not a "one-and-done" service as I follow-up with them to see how they are doing and if there is anything else we can do.

We work as close as we can with these people which has given our church a more comprehensive understanding of the problem. I can assure you that these people are not gaming or scamming the system. They're just trying to survive. I've helped those looking for work find employment but the big hurdle in the Tri-Area, as it is in other areas of rural America, is that there just aren't that many jobs, and the jobs that are out there are generally minimum wage at best. Additionally, it is difficult for some of these people to find employment as they have no permanent residence, transportation or a valid drivers license.

#### Kilmer

Our United Methodist Book of Discipline says in paragraph 163, subsection E, Poverty; As a church, we are called to support the poor and challenge the rich. To begin to alleviate poverty, we support such policies as: adequate income maintenance, quality education, decent housing, job training, meaningful employment opportunities, adequate medical and hospital care, humanization and radical revisions of welfare programs, work for peace in conflict areas and efforts to protect creation's integrity.

As such, the congregation of Community United Methodist Church calls upon you and your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together to find solutions to the problems and not problems with the solutions. As our Book of Discipline continued to state; *Poverty most often has systemic causes, and therefore we do not hold poor people morally responsible for their economic state.* We don't ask how they got in such a sorry state, we just ask what can we do to help.

We appreciate your time and attention to this matter, and we pray that God grant you and your colleagues the wisdom and discernment to lead our government in its responsibility to represent all people in their pursuit of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Sincerely, W. Rosekrans



## **CREATING CONNECTIONS**

### **Finance Report for November 2019**

| Income:             |           | Expenses:              |           |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| Pledges/Non-Pledges | 11,610.00 | Apportionments         | 1,281.35  |
| Cash Offering       | 239.00    | Repairs and Maint.     | 1,607.60  |
| Rental Property     | 1,769.00  | Local Program Ministry | 1,336.65  |
| Misc. Income        | 20.00     | Operating Expenses     | 2,451.33  |
| Total               | 13,638.00 | Personnel Expenses     | 4,149.15  |
|                     |           | Total                  | 10,826.08 |

Surplus/(Deficit) for November 2019 = \$ 2,811.92



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     | \$ 88.33 |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| 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:   | EĊHHO     | \$350.00 |
| November:  | Food Bank | \$250.00 |
|            |           |          |



|  |  |   | January 2020 |   |   |                            |
|--|--|---|--------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed          | Thu   | Fri   | Sat                        |
|  |  |   | 4            | 2<br>7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting<br>(Library)   | ω   | 4                          |
| 5<br>9:00am Music Class<br>10:100am Worship<br>10:15am Sunday School<br>11:15am Fellowship   | 6<br>Memory Support Group,<br>10:30-12pm (classroom)                                     | 7<br>5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting<br>(Library)                            | ∞            | 9<br>UMW 10am (Sanctuary)<br>7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting<br>(Library)   | 10<br>Christian Hula 11:30 am                           | 11                         |
| 12<br>9:00am Music Class<br>10:00am Worship<br>10:15am Sunday School<br>11:15am Fellowship<br>2:00pm Life Care Center<br>Worship Service | 13<br>Newsletter Articles Due<br>Memory Support Group,<br>10:30am-12 noon<br>(Classroom) | 14<br>Chicks in Stitches 2pm<br>5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting<br>(Library) | 15           | 16<br>Fire Starters 10am<br>Finance/Admin Councel<br>Meetings 6pm<br>7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting<br>(Library) | 17<br>11:30am-12:30pm<br>Beginners Praise Hula<br>Class | 18<br>8:00 Men's Breakfast |
| 19<br>9:00am Learning Circle<br>10:00am Worship<br>10:15am Sunday School<br>11:15am Fellowship   | 20<br>Martin Luther King<br>Birthday, Holiday  | 21<br>5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting<br>(Library)                           | 22           | 23<br>10am<br>7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting<br>(Library)  | 24<br>Beginners Praise Hula<br>Class 11:30am            | 25                         |
| 26<br>9:00am Learning Circle<br>10:10am Worship<br>10:15am Sunday School<br>11:15am Fellowship   | 27   | 28<br>Chicks in Stitches 2pm<br>5:30-6:30pm AA<br>Meeting           | 29           | 30<br>Hygiene Kits 10am<br>Al-Anon 7-8pm  | 31<br>Beginners Praise Hula<br>Class 11:30am            |                            |

# **CREATING CONNECTIONS**

Monthly Devotion

We Need Each Other

January 2020

#### Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. Colossians 3:15

While on a hike with my kids, we discovered a light, springy green plant growing in small clumps on the trail. According to a signpost, the plant is commonly called deer moss, but it's not actually a moss at all. It's a lichen. A lichen is a fungus and an alga growing together in a mutualistic relationship in which both organisms benefit from each other. Neither the fungus nor the alga can survive on its own, but together they form a hardy plant that can live in some alpine areas for up to 4,500 years. Because the plant can withstand drought and low temperatures, it's one of the only food sources for caribou (reindeer) in deep winter.

The relationship between the fungus and the alga reminds me of our human relationships. We rely on each other. To grow and flourish, we need to be in relationship with each other.

Paul, writing to believers in Colossae, describes how our relationships should look. We are to clothe ourselves with "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Colossians 3:12). We ought to forgive each other and live in peace "as members of one body" (v. 15).

It's not always easy to live in peace with our families or friends. But when the Spirit empowers us to exhibit humility and forgiveness in our relationships, our love for each other points to Christ (John 13:35) and brings glory to God.

By J. R. Hudberg



### 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