

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of  
Community United Methodist Church

June 2020

Pastor's Pen

A View of the Horizon



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

Earlier in May, Kathy Anderson posted on Facebook that her husband Eric had asked her what she wanted for her birthday. I know most guys recognize this dance, wanting to get the woman who keeps them clean and fed something they'll really like that shows how much they are appreciated and loved. Kathy posted a nice wish list of things she would like and one of them caught my attention. She said she would like some trees cut so she could have "a view of the horizon." As I'm always looking for catchy sermon titles that request resonated with me. A view of the horizon, and unobstructed view of lies ahead for us in our Christian journey. And, it was timely.

Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks, comes 50 days after Passover and, almost 2,000 years ago it was fifty days after the crucifixion. Jesus had spent the preceding 40 days with his disciples preparing them for what lie ahead for them after he ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God, the Father. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit who would come upon them and serve as their guide, their counselor helping to show them the way as they worked to spread the good news. The Holy Spirit came like the roaring of a great wind and flames like tongues settled upon their heads and the disciples began speaking in languages not their own. They were enabled to bring the message to people who did not share a common language, a sign that there are no barriers to telling someone about Jesus Christ if the Spirit moves you.

And, that's where our view of the horizon comes in. We have so many things in our lives that, if we're not careful, obscure our view of what's really important. Our stuff becomes the object of our desires and our reason for being. The stuff we have is not enough or not good enough. We must have more and before we know it, our vision is clouded. The Holy Spirit helps us see what is really important in God's kingdom, where we should be storing up our treasures where neither moths nor rust will get them. I think our little church has a pretty good view of the horizon as we work hard through the spirit to remove those distracting obstructions and focus on the needs of our greater community. Our goal, is to be creative and do everything we can to show others how to clear their view of the horizon and hope for what is beyond the horizon, a life in eternity with Christ.

This is especially important during these extremely difficult times as we learn to cope and live with the Corona virus. It would be an understatement to say that we have been presented with some unforeseen challenges, but this wouldn't be the first time. The early church underwent it's first crisis in 70 A.D. when the great persecution under Nero began which scattered the believers. They were taken out of their comfort zone and had to do things differently as they endeavored to spread the gospel. We have been taken out of our comfort zone and are looking at new ways to get the Word out. This pandemic has turned things upside down and, for many, their view of the future is uncertain and they don't know what lays beyond the horizon. We need to be more creative than ever if we're going to reach people whose lives have been turned upside down by sickness, job loss, mounting debt and the prospect of becoming homeless. Their view of the future is uncertain and we need to do all we can to be a calming influence assuring them that God is in control and that there is a better life just beyond the horizon. It will be interesting, to say the least, to see in which direction we are led by the Spirit. In the meantime, keep our church in your prayers as we await further instructions from the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ, Scott

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**Church Reopening.** Speaking of a view of the horizon, the Administrative Council is meeting this evening to discuss the guidelines we received from the Bishop on reopening churches. I can say that it doesn't look like it will be anytime soon but we are working towards developing protocols that will move us in that direction. Our biggest hurdle is that 98% of our congregation falls into the "high risk" category of being older than 65. Currently, the Bishop wants high-risk parishioners to stay home until Phase Four. In the meantime, we will continue to do church as best we can and, if you have any suggestions or requests, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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. 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	\$238.00
March:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
April:	ECHHO	\$300.00
May:	Food Bank	\$275.00
June:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
July:	ECHHO	\$350.00
August:	Food Bank	\$350.00

2020

## FINANCE REPORT

## 2020 Year to Date

Income	\$53,498.50	
Pledges & Identifiable Donors		\$43,883.00
Other Income		\$9,615.50
Expenses	\$55,973.36	
Apportionments		\$5,454.12
Local Program Ministry		\$3,385.56
Operation Expenses		\$27,223.72
Personnel Expenses		\$19,909.96
Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$2,474.86	



# THAT CHURCH

Photos by Scott Rosekrans



Food Bank

Our Welcoming Banner





# THAT CHURCH

Food Bank



Photos by Scott Rosekrans





# The Social Community

By Scott Rosekrans

Sunday, May 5, 1979 started out just like any other day for me. I was a rookie police officer in Houston, Texas who had just finished a six-month rotation in the city jail. I was glad to be back on the streets where the action was. Sundays were generally pretty slow, and it was actually my Friday as my days off were Monday and Tuesday. My partner and I were booking a juvenile when an assist the officer call dropped. We recognized the voices of a couple of our academy classmates as they called for assistance in Moody Park. We raced down the stairs to our patrol car, leaving our juvenile behind, and ran code three to Moody Park just a few short miles away. We got there pretty quickly and when we arrived the sergeant on the scene was ordering all officers out of the park to a location north of the park as a secure staging area. The riot went on for three days with stores being looted, the neighborhood grocery store burned to the ground, two reporters stabbed by the mob after their news vehicle was tipped over, an officer being hit by a speeding car fleeing the park, and numerous arrests. The pot of racial tension had been simmering for a year and boiled over that evening when a couple of Park Police Officers tried to arrest a young Hispanic man for a minor theft offense. You see, a year earlier, a young Mexican-American man had unjustly died in police custody after he had been arrested after a bar fight and was too badly injured to be admitted to the jail. Rather than take him to the hospital as per department policy the officers took him to a remote location on the banks of Buffalo Bayou, beat him and shoved him into the muddy waters of the bayou where his handcuffed body was found the next day. The murder of this young man who had been arrested for an offense that would have gotten him a maximum of 30 days in jail made my job and the jobs of other good officers extremely difficult due to the distrust of the Houston Police Department and white officers in particular. This was tough for me as I liked patrolling the Hispanic sections of the city. Not much happened and I was impressed with how law abiding they were, even the ones who were in the country illegally. They just wanted to enjoy the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness that was available in America, the American dream. After the riot the department offered a new class for officers where we could learn more about their culture and learn how to speak conversational Spanish. I was in the first class.

And here I am, over forty years later watching cities gripped in protests over the murder of a black man at the hands of Minneapolis Police Officers for an allegedly minor theft-type offense. People are being arrested, police officers are being injured while trying to maintain the peace, stores are being looted and buildings burned to the ground. It appears we've forgotten the lessons we learned during the scores of riots we experienced in America in the 60s and 70s. We find ourselves asking why our elected officials and leaders didn't do something to address the root issues that lead to these seemingly spontaneous outbreaks of senseless violence. There is no magic wand you can wave and no one solution. The problem is multifaceted requiring a coordinated approach addressing a wide range of livability issues. I knew what I had to do as a young Houston Police Officer to be part of the solution and, later as a prosecutor in how I handled cases involving crimes committed by minority defendants ensuring that their punishments weren't disparate from that of similarly charged white defendants.

But now, as a member of the United Methodist Church, I find myself asking what is our role and responsibility in the racial problems dividing America? Where do we get our guidance? When all else fails, I go to our Book of Discipline. Paragraph 162 is entitled: The Social Community and reads as follows: *The rights and privileges a society bestows upon or withholds from those who comprise it indicate the relative esteem in which that society holds particular persons and groups of persons. We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened. We support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievances, and physical protection. We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, status, economic condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious affiliation. Our respect for the inherent dignity of all persons leads us to call for the recognition, protec-*

*"The Social Community", continued from page 6*

and implementation of the principles of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* so that communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible, and inalienable rights. Pretty straight forward and well stated but it begs the question as to whether or not we are going to actually do something about this racial inequality issue that has plagued America even before we became the United States.

So, what do we do? Well, first we pray and ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us in attacking these underlying problems. Like we are doing now, we can continue to support programs and entities that help people improve their quality of life. We can confront ignorance when it raises its' ugly head and call it out for what it is. We can make our position as a church abundantly clear that we support laws and policies that address these livability issues and oppose laws and policies that adversely impact the powerless and disenfranchised. And, this is an election year where candidates will be seeking your support, money and votes. There is no better time for you, for us, to tell them exactly what we think and expect from our elected officials and that we will hold them accountable.

As United Methodists we should not feel threatened by someone who wants a livable wage job to support his or her family, or to live in a neighborhood safe from crime and violence. We shouldn't feel threatened by someone who wants his or her children to receive a quality education that increases their chances of becoming a productive self-sufficient citizen. We shouldn't feel threatened by someone who only wants affordable healthcare that will enable them and their family to lead a healthier, longer life. And, we shouldn't feel threatened by someone who only wants to be treated with respect and dignity when they petition their government for a redress of their grievances. As United Methodists we should, without hesitation, embrace them as fellow brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ remembering what the Apostle Paul said in Galatians 3: 26-28; *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* We are all one in Christ Jesus.



## Let Christ Shine Through Us to the World


By Lori Oberlander

Hello everyone.

Community United Methodist Church has many blessings to count! Each and everyone of you reading this message is a blessing. Thank you to each and every one of you for blessing us with your time, your talents, and your treasure! We wouldn't be able to continue helping people in need without you. With your help, we have been able to support many organizations helping people in need such as: local food banks, Bayside, ECHHO, UMCOR, the Local Immigrants rights organization and many other organizations. Thank you to all of you who not only continue to make your pledge payments, but also for giving beyond that by helping to put our online services together on a weekly bases bring church to the all and also for making bean soup, giving clothes, hats, scarves and other things that people struggling will need. May God bless you all!

As we end service as we go out into the world: "Christ is the light of the world, let Christ shine through us to the world--Alleluia! Amen!"

BIRTHDAYS		HOSPITALITY		OUR PRAYERS	
6	Dale Kelley	7		*	For the homeless, the hungry and the unemployed.
11	Gerri Shaw	14		*	For Peace on Earth!
15	Stephen Chase	21		*	For wisdom for our leaders.
20	Deborah Shanks	28	Potluck	*	For employment for people struggling to find meaningful work.
ALTAR FLOWERS		LITURGISTS		*	For Healing and provisions for those who are suffering with COVID-19.
7		7		*	For protection of the medical front-line workers who are caring for patients with COVID-19.
14		14		*	For the Holy Spirit to light the way for each of us to do God’s will.
21		21			
28		28			
COMMUNION SERVERS		SUN-			
7		7			
COUNTERS		14			
7		21			
14		28			
21					
28					
GREETERS		USHERS			
7		7			
14		14			
21		21			
28		28			



We are thankful for Scott, Teresa, John, Diane, Terry, Marsha, Sheila, Liz working hard to stream our worship service each Sunday with music to many people who want to hear God’s Word.

## JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS

June 7

Gen 1:1-2:4a  
 Ps 8  
 2 Cor 13:11-13  
 Matt 28:16-20

June 14

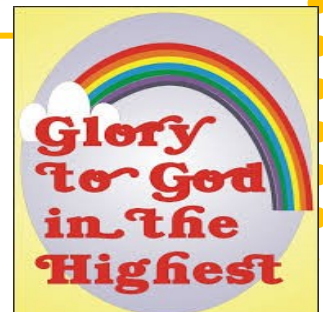
Gen 18:1-15  
 Ps 116:1-2,12-19  
 Rom 5:1-8  
 Matt 10:24-39

June 21

Gen 21:8-21  
 Ps 86:1-10, 16-17  
 Rom 6:1b-11  
 Matt 10:24-39

June 28

Gen 22:1-14  
 Ps 13  
 Rom 6:12-23  
 Matt 10:40-42





## June 2020

(Regular meetings are listed; however because of Covid-19 virus, these are temporarily cancelled.)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <sup>B</sup> Blood Drive Cancelled.	4	5 Beginners Praise Hula 11:30 am	6 10:00am-2:30pm Lenten Retreat
7 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	8 Memory Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom)	9 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches	10	11 10:00am Red Beans and Rice Making 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	12 Beginners Praise Hula 11:30 am	13
14 <i>Mothers Day</i> 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	15	16 Newsletter Articles Due	17	18 10:00am Fleece Scarf Making 6:00pm Admin/Finance Meeting 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	19 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Praise Hula Class	20 UMW District Leadership Meeting hosted by CUMC
21 UMCOR Offering 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	22	23 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches	24	25 10:00am Mini Hygiene Kits 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	26 Beginners Praise Hula Class 11:30am	27 8:00 Men's Breakfast
28 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	29	30 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting				

Monthly Devotion

## Reunion

March 23, 2020

By Alyson Kieda

The little boy excitedly ripped open a big box from his serviceman daddy, whom he believed wouldn't be home to celebrate his birthday. Inside that box was yet another giftwrapped box, and inside that box was another that simply held a piece of paper saying, "Surprise!" Confused, the boy looked up—just as his dad entered the room. Tearfully the son leapt into his father's arms, exclaiming, "Daddy, I missed you" and "I love you!"

That tearful yet joyful reunion captures the heart of [Revelation 21](#)'s description of the glorious moment when God's children see their loving Father face to face—in the fully renewed and restored creation. There, "[God] will wipe every tear from [our] eyes." No longer will we experience pain or sorrow, because we'll be with our heavenly Father. As the "loud voice" in [Revelation 21](#) declares, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them" (vv. 3–4).

There's a tender love and joy that followers of Jesus already enjoy with God, as [1 Peter 1:8](#) describes: "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy." Yet imagine our incredible, overflowing joy when we see the one we've loved and longed for welcoming us into His open arms!

**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](http://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](mailto:pastorscottrosekrans@gmail.com)

Pastor's Office Hours:

10 am - 3 pm, Monday &amp; Wednesday

10 am - 6 pm, Tuesday