

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



By Scott Rosekrans

Photo by Scott Rosekrans

December 2020

"Radio Patrol"



When I graduated from the Houston Police Academy in 1977, I was assigned to the Radio Patrol Division. Radio Patrol was the division that answered all the calls for service much like when you call 911 now. Other uniformed divisions were Accident and Traffic Enforcement along with Point Control. On the side of the police cars right below the window was a decal that told you what division the car was assigned to. To most folks a police car is a police car, but these decals told us what division the occupants were assigned and, therefore, their assigned duties. So, someone might flag down a police car to report a crime and the officer behind the wheel would point to the decal and say: "It says Traffic Enforcement, you need Radio Patrol!" and then drive off. Of you might flag down a police car and say that you've been involved in a traffic accident and the officer would point at the decal and say: "It says Radio Patrol, you

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need an Accident unit”, and drive off. All these people wanted was someone to help them and they figured that if you were a police officer you could help them regardless of what it said on the side of the car. I was one of the few Radio Patrol officers in my district that didn’t mind knocking out a simple accident report. It was just easier doing it rather than trying to explain why I couldn’t do it.

And that’s the way I think it was with Jesus and his disciples. It was just easier to help someone rather than look for reasons not to do it, and it was the right thing to do. In all my readings of the four gospels I have yet to come across a time when Jesus was approached by someone needing help and he told them he was too busy, or it wasn’t his job, or to see their local rabbi. It didn’t matter to Jesus if it was a cripple laying by the pool hoping to get into the rippling water to experience the healing effects, a girl possessed by demons, a woman experiencing a decade’s long bleeding disorder, a leper, or a whole hillside of hungry people. He took pity on them and had compassion for their plight and did what he could, no questions asked. And he didn’t tell them he wanted to see them in synagogue on Saturday.

As I was writing this, on my day off as I scrambled to get caught up, I looked out the window and saw a homeless man we’ve been helping walking up the driveway to the church. I could have easily said: “Hey, I helped your out earlier this week, or I’m really busy so come back Monday.” Afterall, I am the pastor of a Methodist Church and I have an important sermon to prepare for Sunday that I know everyone is eagerly anticipating. We’ve been helping “Mike” out for quite some time now. He’s homeless, and up until last Monday, he was squatting in a camper trailer up behind the county jail. He told me Tuesday that it had gotten towed off, probably by the county. Today he told me that the Sheriff’s Department had put an orange sticker on it so what he was saying was undoubtedly true. Now he’s staying with a cousin in a small camper trailer. Mike is a little challenged so I don’t know if his situation will ever improve. I’ve suggested the Winter Shelter several times, but he doesn’t seem too keen on the idea. His initial excuse was that if he did that, someone might break into his trailer and steal all his stuff. That’s not a problem now, as I pointed out. (Thanks, Captain Obvious!) Anyway, he wanted some food and a QFC card so he could buy laundry soap and some small propane tanks for his cook stove. He also wanted another solar light to replace the one I had given him previously and one of Jean Holtz’s homemade camp stoves so he could cook outdoors. It just seemed easier to help him than to explain why we couldn’t or why I was pressed for time.

And that’s the lesson I think Jesus was trying to teach his disciples and ultimately us; do what you can, with what you have, for anyone you can, no questions asked. Now, in the spirit of open disclosure, I do ask a lot of questions of the people who come in for help, but what I ask of them is to tell me their situation, what they need and how can we help more. I don’t ask how they got in such a sorry state or give them sage advice like to quit drinking and get a job. I work on building a relationship with them where maybe we can hook them up with one of the many agencies we support, due to the relationships we’ve built with them. It must be working because these agencies refer people to us when they can’t help.

So, during this Advent Season let’s pause and prayerfully remember those people we don’t notice, choose to ignore, those living in the shadows who need our help. Pray that we reflect the light of Christ and that when they approach us, we take the time to see them, listen to them, and do what we can to meet their needs, rather than give them an excuse as to why we can’t, that it’s not our job, or they need to look at the decal on the door and call someone else..

Faithfully, Scott





The miracle of the Incarnation - God made flesh - can heal and transform us. For if we can open our saddened hearts to the “One who comes with healing in His wings” (Malachi 4:2), then God’s own life and love and hope can offer us the profound healing miracle of Christmas: God-with-us, Emmanuel!

Please join us for this special Facebook Live service at 7:00 PM, December 21 for Scripture readings, special reflections, beautiful music and candle-lighting.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined” Isaiah 9: 2





Our New Neighbors

by Scott Rosekrans

Photos by Scott Rosekrans



It is really amazing how God works through the Holy Spirit. A little over a month ago I preached a sermon about how we should be good stewards of what we have and to use it wisely in service to God. I suggested that maybe we should look closely at who we were giving our money to and whether or not we were getting the biggest bang for our bucks in the Tri-Area. Apparently, God was listening in and put the wheels in motion. It wasn't long after that sermon that I got a call from an individual who said he heard we might have some available land that could accommodate a tiny home village. I told him the answer was yes and no. Yes we had land, but no as it was leased to OlyCAP. I told him to work it out with OlyCAP and we'd probably be okay with whatever they come up with. Well, that brought on a conversation with OlyCAP and I explained that since the initial construction of Phase One of the South Seven Senior Apartments twenty years ago there hasn't been any further development and that something like this seemed like a good use of the property.

Unbeknownst to me, several of these 96 square foot homes were already being built and they were just looking for a place to locate them for occupancy. The wheels began turning and people jumped into action with OlyCAP and Bayside Housing and Services taking the lead, and county commissioner Greg Brotherton assisting on the approval process with the county. When the weather got colder I was asked if the church had room to pitch a large tent so the construction teams could work under cover. I told them we did and they quickly erected a 40' by 40' tent across the parking lot and the building resumed. (continued on page 5)

Our New Neighbors (continued from page 4)

outlets. Bayside is screening the occupants with an eye towards seniors who will fit in with the current South Seven residents. Bayside will also have a caseworker on site to work on assisting the residents and securing more permanent housing, and will provide one hot meal a day. Right now the county regulations only allow for a one year sanitation permit so, technically, this is a short term solution to a long term problem. The county prosecutor is working on an ordinance that will track what Whatcom County is doing in Bellingham which, we hope, will allow us to do something more long range. The target date for moving residents in is December 22nd which seems fitting.

How exciting it is that we can build upon what was started twenty years ago when the church saw a need for senior housing and worked with OlyCAP by leasing the south seven acres of the church property so the construction of Margaret's Village could actually become a reality. Many thanks to those forward thinking church members for their great stewardship and blessings to our current congregation who support this effort and the many other missions we have that make a difference where differences need to be made.



Holiday Activities for Community UMC

By Dale Kelley



It is almost hard to believe that the Seasons of Advent and Christmas are upon us once again. These seasons now in 2020 will be like NO other, with COVID-19 in our midst, closing our churches, drastically limiting the festive gatherings of families and friends, and keeping us largely behind closed doors and protected behind masks of many shapes and designs.

And yet... celebrate the birth of our Savior we will do – perhaps this year with lots less of the hurried “hustle and bustle” stress and much more of the quiet reflection of the Christmas Carol verses we so dearly cherish of the shepherds on quiet hillsides, startled by the choir of Angels and the sleepy Town of Bethlehem and the quiet of the warm Stable gently embracing the Holy Family.

This year we are invited to gather with our families – or perhaps a few friends - around TV or computer screens and watch televised Services – on ZOOM or Facebook Live, as the Sights and Sounds of the Season are streamed into our living-rooms.

Following is a “Line-up” of Services and Activities for Community UMC which we hope you will make note of or CLIP and POST, so as not to miss !

Updates throughout the month will be given each WEDNESDAY in Pastor Scott’s Weekly Article



ALL SERVICES listed here will be on the CUMC FACEBOOK Page

FIRST SUNDAY of Advent, Nov 29 - Lighting 1st Advent Candle

SECOND SUNDAY of Advent, Dec 6 - Lighting 2nd Advent Candle

THIRD SUNDAY of Advent, Dec 13 - Lighting 3rd Advent Candle

“Longest Night Service”, Monday, Dec 21 7:00 PM (See Article)

*FOURTH SUNDAY of Advent, Dec 20 Lighting 4th Adv**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, Thursday, Dec 24 7 pm

A MERRY and BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Dear Betty Prentice, Dale Kelley and
Joan Flowers,



The Nativity Scene in the sanctuary is very beautiful. We all are appreciative of your time and expertise in doing this!



Kitchen Remodel

By Scott Rosekrana, photos by Scott Rosekrans



Almost two years ago, when we completed our remodel of the sanctuary and narthex we started getting questions about when we would update the kitchen. Well, the time has arrived as we decided now would be a good time as the church is shut down for the foreseeable future.

As you can see from the photographs our current kitchen is quite outdated and inefficient. Our plans are to update it with new

appliances from this century, new paint, new flooring, new countertops and refurbished cabinets along with a new hot water heater. When we replaced our aging boiler earlier this year we opted to go with propane heat and had a line run to the back of the church so when we replaced the stove we could switch from electric to gas. Gas is more efficient and we can cook even if the power goes out. An updated kitchen will also enhance our ability to prepare meals for when we volunteer at the Winter Shelter and other projects. Our long range plan is to eventually put a propane fireplace insert in the fireplace in the narthex for those chilly Sunday mornings when we gather for fellowship after the service.

So how much is this going to cost you ask? We've already bought the appliances out of cash reserves. With the estimate from the contractor and a few other things the remaining funds needed to complete the project is approximately thirty thousand dollars. Of that thirty thousand we've already raised seven thousand in donations from members of the Finance Committee. That leaves roughly another twenty-three thousand to raise.

What we'd like you to do in the meantime is to pray on the matter and give what you can. If you can't give, please pray for the project, those that can give, and that the remodel, which is scheduled to start in January, will go smoothly.

I can't wait to have our first fellowship using our new kitchen when we all gather again for in-person worship hopefully sooner than later.

Pastor Scott



“Toys For Tots”



The toys were picked up at our church on December 9th by John Sweet. He took them to the Toys for Tots headquarters.

The toys drive is over. People dropped by and donated many toys to the church; also others ordered many toys on line and had them mailed to the church.



A many heart-felt “Thank You “ to all that you contributed for this drive. The kids will be very happy!

HO HO HO!



Social Justice Committee

By Larry Jensen

We now have a functioning Social Justice Committee! As Christians we are called to identify injustices, to work to correct what is wrong, and to promote justice in our society. As United Methodists we are guided by The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. This document can be found at the link <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>. I urge you to check it out. It is long (40 pages) but well worth the effort to find out where are Church stands on critical issues.

Our first committee meeting (via Zoom) was November 10 and we met again on December 1. The group decided that we will concentrate our efforts on

- Homelessness
- Housing
- Food/Hunger



These are areas we have been working on through our Local Missions program with much success. The new committee will add to our current efforts particularly by working with other community groups, agencies, and governmental entities. We will also attempt to influence policies and legislation at all levels to fight systemic evils and work toward a more just society.

The next committee meeting will be December 17 at 3:00. If you are interested in joining the group or finding out more about it, contact Larry Jensen at ljensen@abbnebraska.com or (402)290-0963

Blessing of the guitar

By Scott Rosekrans and photo by Scott Rosekrans



Blessing the gift of a guitar to a homeless woman.

Gently Used Guitar Needed. I got a call from Bayside Housing and Services today with a special request. They just took on a new resident who had been homeless. Just before she took up residence at Bayside someone stole her guitar. Mike at Bayside called me to see if i could locate a gently used guitar for this new resident as he thinks it will greatly lift her spirits. So, if you have a gently used six string acoustic guitar you would like to give to someone who would really appreciate it, please let me know.



Outdoor Nativity Scene

Located on corner of Church Lane and Chimacum Rd.



For those of you who helped set up the Nativity Scene, we are extremely grateful. It is so beautiful, it gives us hope and love.



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	\$666.67
August	Food Bank	\$307.32
September	OlyCAP	\$275.00
October	ECHHO	\$941.67
November	Food Bank	326.61
December	OlyCAP	

2020

FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

10//26/20

2020 year to date

Income

\$94,403.21

Pledges & Identifiable Donors

\$78,855.00

Other Income

\$15,548.21

Expenses

\$93,691.21

Apportionments

\$13,735.30

Local Ministry

\$7,457.43

Operation Expenses

\$39,030.64

Personnel Expenses

\$33,467.84

Surplus/(Deficit)

\$712.00

BIRTHDAYS	HOSPITALITY	OUR PRAYERS
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1 Larry Sanderson

6
13
20
27

- * For the homeless, the hungry and the unemployed.
- * For Peace on Earth!
- * For wisdom for our leaders.
- * For employment for people struggling to find meaningful work.
- * For Healing and provisions for those who are suffering with COVID-19.
- * For protection of the medical front-line workers who are caring for patients with COVID -19.

ALTAR FLOWERS

6
13
20
27

LITURGISTS

6
13
20
27

COMMUNION SERVERS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

6
13
20
27

COUNTERS

6
13
20
27

USHERS

6
13
20
27

GREETERS

6
13
20
27



DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Dec 6

Isa 40:1-11
Ps 85:1-2,8-13
2 Pet 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Dec 13

Isa 61:1-4, 8-11
Ps 126
1 Thess 5:16-24
John 1:6-8

Dec 20

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:47-55
Rom 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Dec 27

Isa 61:48 Eph 1:15-23
Gal 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

December 2020

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Charge Conference 1-3pm Zoom meeting	3	4	5
6 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	7 Memory Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom)	8 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches	9	10 10:00am Red Beans and Rice Making 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	11 Beginners Praise Hula 11:30 am	12
13 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	14	15 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	16	17 10:00am Fleece Scarf Making 6:00pm Admin/ Finance Meeting 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	18 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Praise Hula Class	19 UMW District Lead- ership Meeting hosted by CUMC
20 UMCOR Offering 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	21	22 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	23	24 10:00am Mini Hy- giene Kits 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	25 Beginners Praise Hula Class 11:30am	26 8:00 Men's Break-
27 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	28	29	30	31		

Monthly Devotion

Lonely Christmas

My eyes are ever on the
Lord. [Psalm 25:15](#)

By Lawrence Darmani

The loneliest Christmas I ever spent was in my grandfather's cottage near Sakogu, northern Ghana. I was just fifteen, and my parents and siblings were a thousand kilometers away. In previous years, when I'd been with them and my village friends, Christmas was always big and memorable. But this Christmas was quiet and lonely. As I lay on my floor mat early Christmas morning, I remembered a local song: *The year has ended; Christmas has come; the Son of God is born; peace and joy to everybody*. Mournfully, I sang it over and over.

My grandmother came and asked, "What song is that?" My grandparents didn't know about Christmas—or about Christ. So I shared what I knew about Christmas with them. Those moments brightened my loneliness.

Alone in the fields with only sheep and occasional predators, the shepherd boy David experienced loneliness. It would not be the only time. Later in his life he wrote, "I am lonely and afflicted" ([Psalm 25:16](#)). But David didn't allow loneliness to cause him to be despondent. Instead, he sang: "My hope, Lord, is in you" (v. 21).

From time to time we all face loneliness. Wherever Christmas may find you this year, in loneliness or in companionship, you can enjoy the season with Christ.



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