

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of  
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



November 2020

## "We are Creative"

Earlier in October I preached a sermon entitled: Creative Christianity where I talked about how we have to be creative in our Christian walk if we are going to reach people and show them the love of Christ. We can't be static and



think that doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results will, in all actuality, produce the hoped for results. You know what that is? That's the definition of insanity. And yet a lot of churches are hoping for exactly that. They want to reopen for the sole purpose of getting back to normal, back to the way they used to do

things. Well, if we're brutally honest with ourselves, the old way of doing things probably wasn't working out too well anyway. The Covid-19 crisis has had varying impacts on how churches do church. Some have hunkered down, not adapting to the new circumstances, and are praying for a miracle so that they can throw open their doors and resume business as usual. Other churches have defied logic and are operating business as usual and we pray that the virus passes them by. (continued on page 2)

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Churches like ours are trying to adapt and are exploring new ways of doing church with varying successes. They are reaching people they never thought they'd reach and are experiencing different ways of doing church, the new normal.

I won't wear you out with all the different ways in which we are expressing our creativity but, without argument, we are creative. We are not content to do things the way they've always been done expecting different results. We have become the kings and queens of the "mini-mission" as we look for ways to address the problems staring us in the face. I'm currently reading an interesting book about controlling or clearing the chaos out of your life and one of the chapters talked about facts and ideas. Facts are dead, they are what they are, and you can't change them. Ideas are alive and they do something about the facts. For example, it's getting colder and darker. That's a fact we can't control. So what does a creative church do about these facts? We come up with ideas that alleviate some of the suffering caused by these facts. For example, we have a mission room that has warm blankets, and a clothes closet that is full of warm clothing, and now we have a food pantry that is stocked with food people can heat up and enjoy a hot meal.



And how do we do this? It must be expensive. Not really, as our church is blessed with many generous people who give out of their abundance. But we also have people who knit hats, make blankets, make firestarters, make soup mix, and are involved in countless other little mini-missions. (As I was writing this I got a phone call from a member of our congregation who was going shopping and wanted to know if there was anything specific we needed. Why yes, I told her and gave her a shopping list.) (continued on page 3)

It's because of all we do that I believe we are the right church in the right place at the right time. And because of that, I think it is more important than ever that we do all we can to remain open. So, here comes the hook! It's that time of year when we start thinking about our annual pledges, our Stewardship Campaign, where we plan for the coming year and set our budget. Now we're not in any danger of closing and, by all accounts, we are in good shape financially as we have been extremely good stewards of your hard-earned money. And, we also realize that some of you may have had to either tighten your belts or are helping out family members who are having a tough time. That's a fact and we can't do anything about that. So, we're looking for ideas to help address those facts. If you can continue to give that is great and truly appreciated. We want to do all we can to keep our doors open for the future. Right now I am here three days a week and it is not uncommon for me to have a couple of people come by looking for help every week. Even on days when I'm not usually here they drop in. I think they know my truck. I committed to myself when this virus shutdown first hit us not to be the church that shut its doors and posted a sign saying "see you next year." I had a man tell me this week that if it wasn't for one of our members and our church he didn't know what he'd do. How can we not be open?

So, soon you will be getting the annual Stewardship Campaign letter asking you to prayerfully consider how you can give of your time, talents and treasures. I am confident that God does not want this church to close as He is constantly presenting us with facts to deal with and creatively come up with ideas to be "that" church in this community during these difficult times. In the meantime, thank you for the honor and opportunity to serve you and your community as your pastor.

Yours in Christ,



Scott



# Bring Forth the Kingdom of God

**A new opportunity for CUMC members  
to work toward a more just world.**

**By Larry Jensen**

Jesus came to proclaim the Kingdom of God. The phrase “Kingdom of God” refers to a world in which everything is as it was intended to be by our Creator, a world where justice prevails. The promise of the Kingdom calls us to show love for our neighbor in our personal relationships. But also to name and work to correct injustice in our society. That is, we are called to identify root causes of problems such as hunger and homelessness, to ask why they exist and what changes are needed to eliminate or lessen them. And then to work to bring about those changes.

Jesus began his ministry by reading these words from the prophet Isaiah, sometimes called Jesus’ mission statement.

*‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’  
Luke 4:18-19*

How is this mission to be carried out in our time and our place? The answer is that it is up to us.

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) (continued on page 5)



The Gospel of Matthew gives us a parable describing how we will be evaluated or judged as followers or disciples of Jesus

*Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."*

Matthew 25:34-36

CUMC does a good job of showing love for our neighbor through our local mission work. For example, we help feed the hungry by supporting the Quilcene and Tri-Area Food Banks with our donations and volunteers. We help the homeless and others without resources by providing QFC gift cards and clothing from our clothes closet, by serving at homeless shelters, and by assisting in finding housing.

But so far we have not had an organized effort to address societal or systemic problems. . Therefore we are forming a Social Concerns or Social Justice committee to do this work. If you are interested in being part of this group or if you have questions or just want to talk about it, contact Dale Kelley (360-437-5129, [darykelley@gmail.com](mailto:darykelley@gmail.com) ) or Larry Jensen (402-290-0963, [lpjensen@abbnwbraska.com](mailto:lpjensen@abbnwbraska.com)).

## UPDATE:

By Diane Jensen



United Methodist Women will meet via Zoom on Thursday, November 5th at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to join us. If you do not currently get emails about UMW and would like to join the meeting, please contact Diane Jensen at 402-290-1220 or [dcjensen@abbnwbraska.com](mailto:dcjensen@abbnwbraska.com) and she will send you the link to join the meeting. We're looking forward to seeing you.



### Volunteers Needed to Work From Home

The mission team is looking for volunteers to help make packets of Lentil Soup for local food banks. In particular we need volunteers to make:

Spice Packets: you would need to measure the spices and bag.

Bags of Soup: involves putting 1 cup of lentils in a zip lock bag, with a recipe card and a bag of spice. Once it is all assembled then you will need to staple the bag to ensure no tampering after completion.

The church will supply bags, lentils, recipe cards and spices.

Please let Lori Oberlander at [Lori.obe@q.com](mailto:Lori.obe@q.com) know if you are willing to help or if you have any questions about helping.

DOVE House is Seeking People to Sponsor Residents for Christmas and Help Make Dreams Come True!

We are also looking for people interested in sponsoring single women or women with children from Dove House for Christmas this year. We are trying to get an idea of how many people we should request to sponsor with Christmas Gifts from their wish list this year. Once we know who is interested, we will sign up for the families, they will provide a wish list. The people are encouraged to dream big, so you DO NOT have to buy everything on their wish list. You can partner with friends and family to get items off of their list and we would collect the items from you and then we will deliver to the Dove House when needed in time for Christmas. If you are interested in providing gifts for residence of DOVE house, please let Lori Oberlander know at [Lori.obe@q.com](mailto:Lori.obe@q.com).

### Weekly Sunday morning prayer concerns for the month. B. S. Rosekrans

Prayers for

Prayers for Connie Redling's cancer treatment and a joy that she got a good report on her kidneys.

Prayers for Paul Corbett, a homeless man we have helped, who had a heart attack.

Prayers for Lori Oberlander's husband Todd who has a melanoma on his left retina.

Prayers from Kelly Burdette for our country.

Prayers for Judy S who we've helped out who is having surgery.

Prayers for Jay L who we've helped out in his continued search for employment

Prayers for the family of Jim Espensen who passed recently.

Betty Prentice asks for prayers for her sister Diane.

Fran Huntington-Gunn asks for prayers for a medical issue.

Kathy Anderson asks for prayers for her son and his girlfriend who are traveling in search of employment.

Continued prayers for Bob Linrothe as he deals with his medical issues.

Connie Redling asks for prayers for her family as they mourn the passing of her brother Jack.

A joy for a successful surgery for Judy S





# "Give us this day our daily bread"

By Scott Rosekrans

This past October it all came together. We converted our last unused room into a food pantry. I ordered five rolling racks online, assembled them and then put out the call for food items and you generously responded. I am pleased to say we have already had several people come in and help themselves to food and other items. Right now, the plan is to be available to people who come by for assistance. During my meetings with them the need for food comes up often which gives me an opening to take them to the pantry. Because we've had some food boxes in the past some folks already know we have food and are pleasantly surprised to see such a selection. Below you will find a basic list of what we're looking for. It's not exhaustive and is meant to give you an idea of what is most needed. Cut it out and post it on your refrigerator and think about picking up an item or two when you do your shopping.

1. Top Ramen/Maruchan Ramen noodle packets (not cups as you get more with the packets)
2. Packets of crackers. (The boxes of saltines usually come in individually wrapped sleeves of crackers)
3. Pull tab cans of soup (pull tabs eliminates the need for a can opener)
4. Pull tab cans of pork & beans, chili, stew or Spagetti-O type meals
5. Pull tab cans of chicken, tuna, pork, beef, Vienna Sausages, potted meat, or Spam
6. Pull tab cans of vegetables
7. Small pull tab cans of fruit, apple sauce, or pudding.
8. Peanut butter, jelly and jam.

food if at all possible. So, in your shopping you might look for items that are low in sodium, reduced fat and the like. I thank God for this less-than-subtle reminder that it is really tough out there for the folks we are trying so hard to help.



(continued on page 8)



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

9. Individual packets of instant oatmeal.
10. Individual packets of breakfast bars or nutrition bars.
11. Small packets of hot chocolate, or boxes of instant coffee, or tea bags.
12. Boxes of 1% or 2% milk, the kind that doesn't require refrigeration, or powdered milk.
13. Individually wrapped packets of beef/pork jerky or Slim Jims.
14. Macaroni and Cheese
15. Pasta and noodles
16. Small boxes of individual serving size cereal.
17. Pet Food (any size, we can repackage for smaller amounts)
18. Toilet paper and paper towels
19. Feminine Hygiene products

**Special note:** As I was writing this I had a man come in who needed some food. We were able to help him out but the problem was he has had a couple of heart attacks and the doctor would like him to watch his diet. Healthy food is expensive. I would like to start a rack with heart-healthy and health conscious food if at all possible. So, in your shopping you might look for items that are low in sodium, reduced fat and the like. I thank God for this less-than-subtle reminder that it is really tough out there for the folks we are trying so hard to help.



# 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



*THANKSGIVING SERVICE -- Wednesday, Nov 25, 6:00 PM*

*FIRST SUNDAY of Advent, Nov 29 - Lighting 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Advent Candle*

*\*CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, Thursday, Dec 24 7 pm*



*A MERRY and BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL*



By Dale Kelley

For Christians, Advent begins as a season of waiting. We wait for snow in the mountains and the activities of winter. We wait for word from loved ones. We wait for healing in our hearts. We wait for God to bring new hope and new direction. Waiting is part of the Advent season - and especially so for the church. The Advent readings say: "Wait on the Lord! Your redemption is drawing near!"

The problem is we are often not as attentive, or as expectant, or as hope-filled, or as we might like to be. And especially so in this "YEAR OF COVID"! This is why, we have decided to offer - ONCE AGAIN - a special service during this Advent Season - a time of remembrance, of comfort and of renewing hope. It will be on the longest night of the year – **Monday, December 21 at 7:00 PM**, and will be called the **"Longest Night Service"**.

The **Longest Night Service** invites members and friends of our congregation - as well as folks from the wider community - to leave, for a moment, the distractions of bright lights and busy activity to step into the darkness of the longest night of the year and into the darkness we may be experiencing in our hearts... With the dark cloud of the COVID Virus on everyone's mind, this year is especially challenging for every one of us !

As frightening as it may seem to step into the darkness of our losses, many good things can be found in the dark. Out of the dark, a star shines. Out of the dark, a baby's cry is heard. God's Spirit moves in the darkness and brings forth the light of creation and new life.

The **Longest Night Service** is meant for all of us who are experiencing grief at any level: loss through death or divorce or estrangement; loss of job or hopes or dreams; loss of life's meaning through depression; loss of inner peace through painful memories of any kind. It will include scripture readings, special music, stories of healing, and candle lighting.

Please mark your calendar for this very special service!! Pastor Dale

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:

2020

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	

## FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

10//26/20

2020 year to date

## Income

\$94,403.21

Pledges &amp; 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
2	Wendi Metzger	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* For the homeless, the hungry and the unemployed.</li> <li>* For Peace on Earth!</li> <li>* For wisdom for our leaders.</li> <li>* For employment for people struggling to find meaningful work.</li> <li>* For Healing and provisions for those who are suffering with COVID-19.</li> <li>* For protection of the medical front-line workers who are caring for patients with COVID-19.</li> </ul>
5	Richard Christopher	8	
9	Bill Metzger	15	
10	Janet Stevenson	22	
11	Barb Sweet	29	
12	Carolyn Allen		
21	Cindi Jones		
ALTAR FLOWERS		LITURGISTS	
1		1	
8		8	
15		15	
22		22	
29		29	
COMMUNION SERVERS		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
COUNTERS			
1		1	
8		8	
15		15	
22		22	
29		29	
GREETERS		USHERS	
1		1	
8		8	
15		15	
22		22	
29		29	



## SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Nov 1

Josh 3:7-17  
Ps 107:1-7,33-37  
1 Thess 2:9-13  
Matt 23:1-12

Nov 8

Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Ps 78:1-7  
1 Thess 4:13-18  
Matt 25:1-13

Nov 15

Judg 4:1-7  
Ps 123 or Ps 76  
1 Thess 5:1-11  
Matt 25:14-30

Nov 22

Ezek 34:11-16,20-24  
Ps 100  
Eph 1:15-23  
Matt 25:31-46

Nov 29

Isa 64:1-9  
Ps 80:1-7,17-19  
1 Cor 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37



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

Monthly Devotion

# Rivals or Allies?

August 18, 2020

By Our Daily Bread

1 Corinthians 1:10 Be perfectly united in mind and thought

The city of Texarkana sits squarely on the state border between Texas and Arkansas. The city of 70,000 inhabitants has two mayors, two city councils, and two police and fire departments. The cross-town sporting rivalry between high schools draws an uncommonly high attendance, reflecting the deep allegiance each has to their own state's school. More significant challenges arise as well, such as disputes over the shared water system, governed by two sets of state laws. Yet the town is known for its unity despite the line that divides it. Residents gather annually for a dinner held on State Line Avenue to share a meal in celebration of their oneness as a community.

The believers in Corinth may not have drawn a line down their main thoroughfare, but they were divided. They'd been quarreling as a result of their allegiances to those who taught them about Jesus: Paul, Apollos, or Cephas (Peter). Paul called them all to oneness "in mind and thought" (1 Corinthians 1:10), reminding them it was Christ who was crucified for them, not their spiritual leaders.

We behave similarly today, don't we? We sometimes oppose even those who share our singularly important belief—Jesus' sacrifice for our wrongdoings—making them rivals instead of allies. Just as Christ Himself is not divided, we, as His earthly representation—His body—mustn't allow differences over nonessentials to divide us. Instead, may we celebrate our oneness in Him.



## 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 & Wednesday  
10 am - 6 pm, Tuesday