

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



February 2021

The Great Debate over Evolution

I believe in evolution. In some religious circles that would be a sacrilegious statement that would probably get you a good old fashioned Bible thumping. But I'm not talking about the Evolution vs. Creation argument we saw in the Scopes Monkey Trial. I'm talking about the kind of evolution we see when we adapt to our present situation in an effort to survive and meet the new challenges that may threaten the way we do things.



Clothes Closet

Take the Covid-19 virus pandemic for example. This crisis has caused many of us to adapt and change the way we do things as a society and a people in order to survive and come out on the other side. For those who may not be taking it seriously, they may be running the

risk of extinction. Some, by their actions, may be contenders for this year's Darwin Award.

But I'm not talking about that great debate over what works or doesn't work. I'm talking about how we're evolving as a church. As of this writing, we are in our eleventh month of closure where we aren't holding in-person worship or doing any of the in-person church activities we used to do. I honestly did not know what to think as one month grew into two months and then three months as the virus seized control of the world.

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Fleece blanket making

We all prayed for a miracle and here we are at the one-year mark with barely a glimmer of hope on the horizon if these variants of the virus don't take over. I don't know how other churches are doing as our conference has been pretty quiet on that front. I'm not getting any news on what churches are doing right to adapt and survive, and I'm not hearing anything on what churches are closing and why. Honestly, you'd think the people we send our monthly apportionments to would have formed some sort of a task force to come up with some sort of trouble shooting plan to go out and help struggling churches, or at least gather ideas from churches that are actually doing better than expected because they've taken corrective actions. After all, aren't we a connectional church? But this is not where I want to go in this article.

What I've seen over the past year is our church evolving and adapting to the crisis to where I have no doubt that we will emerge from this crisis a stronger and more vibrant church. I can't say we were prepared for the pandemic when it hit but, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we had built up our infrastructure, our core, to where we were ready to meet the unknown and unexpected challenges head-on. Our mission efforts were fully engaged, and we were already committed to serving the least, the last and the lost. When things started to get worse all around us, we were ready to step up and meet the emerging needs. Our missionaries continued their service work by making more soup,



more fire starters, more scarves, and more fleece blankets. We stepped up our efforts in establishing a Clothes Closet for those who needed warm clothing. We put up a supply of warm blankets and sleeping bags to meet the needs of those now finding themselves homeless and living in marginal, substandard living conditions. In the midst of the pandemic, we created a Food Pantry which is well-stocked with food for those who come to us looking for something to eat. Not only have I had to painfully learn how to be more technology adept, you've had to adapt and learn how to worship on-line. And these on-line Facebook Live services have helped us evolve into a church that is reaching a new audience of spiritual seekers as we continue to worship together as a congregation. We now have people worshipping with us each Sunday we haven't even met, and I can tell by some of their posts that they feel like they are a member of our church and are excited to belong to a church that is evolving and changing with the times to meet the needs of the last, the least and the lost. They feel as if they are a part of something bigger than themselves.

I can tell you that there isn't a week that goes by that I don't get a phone call, an email or a drop-in from someone who has heard about us and wants to know what they can do to help.

Whether it's getting involved in the tiny home project developed and erected on our church property, in donating clothes, blankets and sleeping bags for our clothes closet, food for our food pantry, or in just sending a financial donation so we can keep doing what we're doing. People want to help, and they are willing to help an organization that they are confident is doing the right thing for all the right reasons. God has a plan for us and it's not extinction. He wants us to evolve as a church to take care of his creation. He's turned the Holy Spirit loose on us with instructions to help us evolve into the kind of church that is needed right here, right now, and that's a debate worth having.



Faithfully,
Scott

January Prayer Requests

By Scott Rosekrans

Here are some of our January prayer requests that I was able to jot down during our Sunday morning services.

Diane Johnson asked for prayers for a leaky roof.

Betty Prentice asked for prayers for her cousin Jim who has bladder cancer.

Stephanie Buehler asks for prayers for the family of Sandy Greenleaf who passed away.

Stephanie Buehler had a joy for the opening of Peter's Place.

Lynn Marlow asks for prayers for her cousin Connie who has cancer.

AJ shared a joy that her 97 year old aunt has recovered from cancer.

A joy for the gift bag project for our new neighbors at Peter's Place.

Kathy Anderson had a joy for the much improved sound and video for our Facebook Live services.

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Diane Johnson asks for prayers for the heavy rains we are experiencing.

Liz Hazen asked for prayers for her son Hank.

Kathy Anderson asked for prayers for a friend named Veronica who had passed away.

Marsha Hamacher asks for prayers for peace.

Diane Johnson asks for prayers for those who are experiencing the insecurity of homelessness.

Laurel Ankeny asks for prayers for our leaders.

Terry Reitz asks for prayers that we stop playing the blame game.

Prayers for Deisy Bach and her family as they mourn the passing of her sister.

The Jensens expressed a joy for 57 years of wedded bliss.

And Lori's continued prayers for the hungry, the homeless and unemployed.



UNDERWEARY MONTH

By Scott Rosekrans

That's right, it's February which means it is Underweary Month when we look for good deals on underwear while we're out shopping. Next to socks, new underwear is highly sought after by the people who visit our Clothes Closet. I gave away two pair earlier this week. The young man also spotted some long johns but they weren't his size. So, when you're out there shopping see if you can find a good deal on underwear and also be on the lookout for those warm base layer undershirts and pants. We can use all adult sizes so buy for yourself or for someone else in your family and that should do it. Think holy underwear and not holey underwear.



Kitchen Remodel

By Scott Rosekrans



Our contractors are making great progress on our kitchen remodel and we are hoping it will be completed in a few more weeks. We've had some folks come by during the week to inspect the progress and all of the comments have been very positive. I think it will serve us well as we enter into the next chapter of our church's life here in the Tri-Area. Our capital campaign to raise enough funds to help off-set the cost of the remodel has exceeded our expectations. The projected cost was around thirty-one thousand dollars and, as of this writing, we've reached two-thirds of that amount. For those who have been in a position to help out financially, we truly do appreciate your generosity. And for those who are still thinking about giving, there is plenty of time as every donation helps and is appreciated. And, above all else, keep this project in your continued prayers. I know I can't wait for the day when we reopen for in-person worship and can dedicate our new kitchen and put it to God's intended use.

Photos by Scott Rosekrans



THAT CHURCH

Fire Starters

Photos by Scott Rosekrans



Photos by Scott Rosekrans



WINTER-TIME

Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.

Before the stars have left the skies,
At morning in the dark I rise;
And shivering in my nakedness,
By the cold candle, bathe and dress.

Close by the jolly fire I sit
To warm my frozen bones a bit;
Or with a reindeer-sled, explore
The colder countries round the door.



Food Pantry

Photos by Scott Rosekrans

You never know what God's intended plans are until he lays the project on someone's heart. As you know, we created our food pantry late last year so we could give out food to those who dropped into the church for assistance. It was a great resource that complimented our clothes closet and much appreciated by those who needed a little kindness; something to wear, a blanket to cover themselves, and some food for the body. Since then, Jean Holtz has taken it upon herself to open the pantry and clothes closet on Saturday mornings between nine and noon for anyone who wants to drop in.



On our first Saturday we didn't have any visitors, but on our second Saturday we had two visitors from Peter's Place, the tiny home village behind the church. We were able to meet their needs of blankets, clothing and food. They were very appreciative as Jean took the time to visit with them and help them shop. One of the things we learned early on is that some of the folks who visit us need healthy choices in their food selection. The gentleman who visited needed those healthier food choices which we were fortunate to have in stock. We have one rolling rack dedicated to healthier food items. We need items that are low in fat, sugar free, gluten free, and low in sodium. So, in your shopping look for some of these healthier foods and pick up one or two. I know the gentleman was glad to get the diet cranberry juice we had. We've also had requests for Ensure and other similar dietary supplements. Also, please consider purchasing adult-sized diapers as we have had some requests for them.

As word gets out in the community regarding our clothes closet and food pantry we expect to see an increase in visitors which is why, I think, God has created such an abundance to meet this need. Jean has really gotten the procedure organized and Covid safe with distancing, masks, gloves and hand sanitizer. If you'd like to help out please contact Jean and we'll put your talents to work.



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	\$ 300.00
February:	Food Bank	\$
March:	OlyCAP	\$
April:	ECHHO	\$
May:	Food Bank	\$
June:	OlyCAP	\$
July:	ECHHO	\$
August	Food Bank	\$
September	OlyCAP	\$
October	ECHHO	\$
November	Food Bank	\$
December	OlyCAP	\$

2021

FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

12/31/20	2020 year to date
Income	\$116,047.21
Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$99,069.00
Other Income	\$16,978.21
Expenses	\$113,274.54
Apportionments	\$17,925.89
Local Ministry	\$9,199.41
Operation Expenses	\$41,924.67
Personnel Expenses	\$44,224.57
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$2772.67

CUMC

Food Pantry

Clothing Room

Open: Saturday

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

“Day Packs”

of food & clothing available
as supplies allow.

130 Church Lane

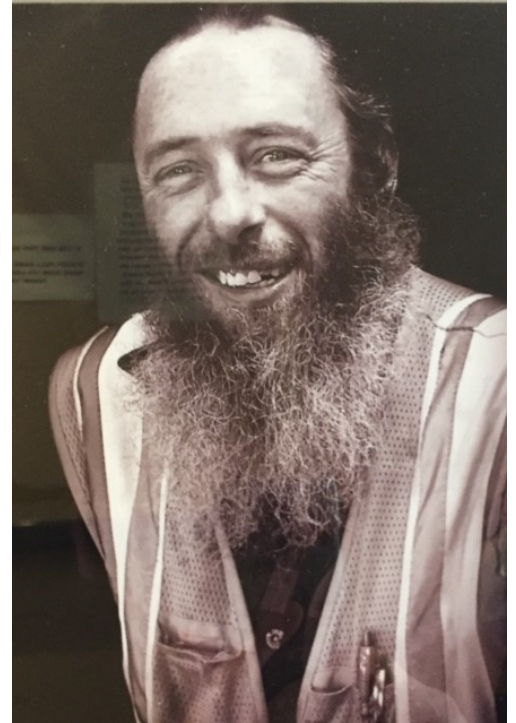
Port Hadlock, WA 98339

Community United Methodist Church

Well Done Good and Faithful Servant

By Scott Rosekrans

Perhaps in your travels you passed through Quilcene and saw a scruffy looking guy standing on the side of the road wearing a brightly colored safety vest with "mayor" written on the back waving at traffic. That was George, a colorful character who added flavor to the Quilcene stew of unique friends and neighbors. I got to know George this past year when I began volunteering on Wednesdays at the Quilcene Food Bank, and George was a character. He volunteered there doing odd jobs and cleaning the floor at the end of the day. He was very friendly and had a great sense of humor. He routinely referred to all the ladies who worked at the food bank as "pretty-girl." Tragically, George passed last month.



In his own way, I think George was a believer. I know this because Leslie (the food bank manager) asked Teresa if we might have any boots for George as his boots were falling apart. We did and Teresa had me drive them down that day. He had also mentioned that he needed some wet weather clothing which we had in our clothes closet. When Leslie gave them to George he told her that he had prayed for some the previous evening. George wasn't someone who'd you see sitting in the pew next to you on Sunday morning but I do believe he has a relationship with Jesus as God did provide for his basic needs. And in return, George gave back. He had nothing to give but his time as he volunteered to help at the food bank and serve those who came in every Wednesday for food. George may not have been the face they saw as they received their food each week but he was one of God's tireless servants who worked behind the lines. And that's the lesson I think George taught us. To serve, you don't have to be a front-line person. The person who works behind the scenes is, more often than not, the most important worker as, without them, the show can't go on. George was one of those people who made it possible for the show to go on.

So, I have no doubt that when George passed and his soul ascended to heaven he got to hear his Master say: "Well done good and faithful servant, enter into your rest." Thank you George, it was a pleasure and an honor getting to work alongside of you.



Community United Methodist Church

A United Methodist Congregation Serving East Jefferson County

130 Church Lane
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cumc@olympus.net
Scott Rosekrans, Pastor

February 9, 2021

Greetings Everyone!

The LENT / EASTER Season 2021 has arrived, and your Worship Committee is pleased to send to you your LENTEN Booklet of Daily Devotions for the Lenten Season.

Our Lent and Easter Season will be celebrated differently this year, as was our Christmas Season, since we are still in a "no Sanctuary Worship style, until further notice". Yet we will strive to make it a special one for all of us during this time of worshipping together through the experience of Facebook Live Services.

As you are aware, each Sunday of Lent has special readings, and our Altar remains with simple decoration, as we prepare our hearts and minds through special prayer during this forty-day period of Lent (excluding Sundays) for the glorious Celebration of Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday!

We will be planning special Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services, most likely on Facebook Live, unless we are allowed to meet in the Sanctuary by that time – April 1 and 2.

Here is also what we have planned:

- **ASH WEDNESDAY -**

This Service will have Special music, Readings, and Candlelight. We recognize that in the darkness of whatever we may be experiencing, God's light of healing calls us through this Lenten time of preparation to reaffirm that New Life comes to us through the miracle of Resurrection! In this Year of COVID, this is especially needed.

- **Included in this mailing is a token of Lent for your reflection –**

The section of burlap with cross reminds us of the ancient symbol of "sack cloth and ashes" as a stripping away, of repentance for our sins that Jesus took to the Cross. Especially during Lent, we prepare for the renewing, cleansing gift of Easter and Jesus Resurrection, and His gift to us of New and Eternal Life!

As always - We thank all of you who continue to replenish our Clothes Closet, our Food Pantry, our Jesus Cup and all the other ways we reach out our Brothers and Sisters who need a helping hand during this - and all other times - remembering that "inasmuch as we reach out to the least of these, we reach out to Jesus himself". Matt 25:40

We pray that each of us and our families and friends have a blessed and safe Lent and Easter Season as we look forward to a healthy Spring and Summer!

In Christ's Love and Peace,

Your CUMC Worship Committee

Dale Kelley, Chair, Betty Prentice, Joan Flowers, Nancy McDaniel, Debbie Dodd, Terry Reitz, Mike Perzel, and Pastor Scott Rosekrans

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN DOORS

OPEN MINDS

Web Site: www.HadlockChurch.com

BIRTHDAYS

3 Debbie Dodd
 4 John Sweet
 12 Betty Harmon
 18 Jackie Dale
 27 Scott Rosekrans

ALTAR FLOWERS

7
 14
 21
 28

COMMUNION SERVERS**COUNTERS**

7
 14
 21
 28

GREETERS

7
 14
 21
 28

HOSPITALITY

7
 14
 21
 28

LITURGISTS

7
 14
 21
 28

SUNDAY SCHOOL

7
 14
 21
 28

USHERS

7
 14
 21
 28

OUR PRAYERS

- * 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.

**FEBRUARY LECTIONARY READINGS**Feb 7

Isa 40: 21-31
 Ps 147: 1-11
 1 Cor 9: 16-23
 Mark 1:29-39

Feb 14

2 Kgs 2:1-12
 Ps 50:1-6
 2 Cor 4:3-6
 Mark 9:2-9

Feb 21

Gen 9:8-17
 Ps 25:1-10
 1 Pet 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

Feb 28

Gen 17:1-7
 Ps 22:23-25
 Rom 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38

February 2021

(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	1	5
						6
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 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	10	11 Admin, Financial Meetings 6pm Zoom	12 Beginners Praise Hula 11:30 am	13
14 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	15	16 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	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 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	24	25 10:00am Mini Hygiene Kits 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	26 Beginners Praise Hula Class 11:30am	27
28 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship						

February, 5, 2021

Hold Steady

Isaiah: 41:13

By Dave Branon

Harriet Tubman was one of the great American heroes of the nineteenth century. Showing remarkable courage, she guided more than three hundred fellow slaves to freedom after she first escaped slavery by crossing into free territory in the United States north. Not content to simply enjoy her own freedom, she ventured back into slave states nineteen times to lead friends, family, and strangers to freedom, sometimes guiding people on foot all the way to Canada.

What drove Miss Tubman to such brave action? A woman of deep faith, she at one time said this: "I always told God, I'm going to hold steady on you, and you've got to see me through." Her dependence on God's guidance as she led people out of slavery was a hallmark of her success.

What does it mean to "hold steady" to God? A verse in the prophecy of Isaiah might help us see that in reality it's He who holds us as we grab His hand. Isaiah quotes God, who said, "I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you" (41:13).

Harriet held tightly to God, and He saw her through. What challenges are you facing? Hold steady to God as He "takes hold" of your hand and your life. "Do not fear." He will help you.



Community United Methodist Church

Open Hearts Open Doors Open Minds

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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