

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



By Scott Rosekrans

Photos by Scott Rosekrans

January 2021

"It's Demo Day!"

If you had told me last March, when the Bishop closed all the Methodist churches in our conference, that ten months later, while still being closed to in-person worship, that we'd be starting a kitchen remodel I would have questioned your sanity. But it's happening! On the first Monday of January, 2021, the same contractor who did our sanctuary/narthex remodel a couple of years ago began demo work on our kitchen. Ordinarily, kitchen remodels aren't that big of a deal, however, I think the fact we are confident enough to start such an ambitious project in the middle of a pandemic tells us something very important. I truly believe God greatly

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Pastor's Pen | 1-3 |
| The Piano Platform | 3 |
| Peter Meets Margaret | 4-6 |
| Bless Each House | 7 |
| Christmas for South Seven | 8-9 |
| Bayside Christmas | 10-11 |
| Mission of the Month | 12 |
| Finance Report | 12 |
| December, birthdays, volunteer schedules, prayers | 13 |
| January Calendar | 14 |
| John Wesley's Manifesto | 15 |
| Monthly Devotional | 16 |



Continued on page 2



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

appreciates what we are doing here and has great plans for us once we do reopen for in-person worship. It displays a great confidence in our church leadership and our membership that we are going in the right direction when other churches are hunkering down and pinching pennies. The support from the congregation has been very encouraging as those who are able have made financial contributions to help fund the project. As I had said earlier, our project cost was approximately \$31,000.00 and, as of this writing, we have either received or have been pledged more than half the amount needed for the project. Donations have ranged from \$50.00 to over a thousand dollars and every little bit helps and adds up. We thank you so much for your continued prayers and support.



It's not just the kitchen remodel that excites me and tells me that we will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever. It's all the other projects we are involved in. While everyone else has been on lockdown we have exercised caution and safety and still managed to do what we do best. We continue to make bean soup mix for the food banks, we've made fleece

scarves and fire starters, we've collected many sleeping bags and tents, our Clothes Closet is very well stocked with good quality clothing, we started a Food Pantry that is seeing an increase in traffic, we partnered with OlyCAP and Bayside to allow some of our property to be used for a Tiny Home Village, and we continue to assist people with QFC gift cards for gas and groceries. We're so committed to the future and the Tri-Area that we've also started a Social Justice Committee as we look for more ways to effectively address the ills and wrongs we see in our mission field. And now there's talk about some of our missionaries organizing some days where we can actually open our Clothes Closet and Food Pantry up to the public. Makes sense as we've accumulated quite a stockpile of clothes, blankets and food and really need to get them out to where they are needed the most. It's like the Holy Spirit is preparing us for what's coming next.

Anyway, while others may be worried about 2021 being a continuation of 2020 (and it may) I am optimistic and excited about the challenges and opportunities for service we may see right around the corner. And, if my timing works out the way I hope it will, we'll have a new kitchen to show off and use when we finally get to worship again in person and in the Spirit.

Can I get an amen?

Faithfully, Scott

THE PIANO PLATFORM



Don is amazing! He
can build anything!

Many thanks to Don Olsen for adding an additional 21 square feet to our platform providing much needed space for our wonderful musicians. All comments regarding the piano platform upgrade include "It's beautiful!"



Peter Meets Margaret

By Scott Rosekrans. Photos by Eva Nornes and Teresa Rosekrans



On December 31st I had the honor and privilege to bless Peter's Place, the new tiny home village erected on church property adjacent to Margaret's Village. I gave the crowd in attendance a brief background of the South Seven Senior apartment complex that was the result of a very far-thinking congregation who, back in 2000, wanted to see unused church property used to provide affordable for some of our most vulnerable. I told them how subsequent congregations wanted to see more of the land used for housing and of our efforts and discussions to see something like that come to fruition. I related how I got a phone

call one morning about two months ago inquiring as to whether or not we did, indeed, have property available for some tiny homes that were already being built. I told the caller we did have available land and told him to contact OlyCAP as the property was currently under lease to them. I told him that if he could work out the details, he would, in all likelihood, have no problem with the church moving forward. Well, that got the ball rolling and before I knew it, we had an agreement to construct a village of twelve tiny homes adjacent to Margaret's Village. It was a coming together of many people and entities including OlyCAP (Olympic Community Action Program), Bayside Housing and Services, Blue Heron Construction, County Commissioner Greg Brother-ton, the Housing Solutions Network, Community



Continued on page 5

Community Build Project and countless volunteers. A forty foot by forty foot tent was erected across the parking lot and the build moved to our property where at least six more homes were constructed and eventually transported the short distance to their final resting place.



I then related a conversation I had recently with a homeless person who comes to us from time to time for assistance. He told me that Jesus was homeless too, which I told him was correct. I think he was referring to what Jesus said in Luke 9: 58; *Foxes have dens and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.* During Jesus' three-year ministry he was more-or-less homeless as he traveled the countryside teaching and preaching. Like many homeless people, he relied upon the kindness of friends and family during his ministry but there were times when he had to rely on the help of strangers, people who would help him out just because it was the right thing to do. They were doing it for Jesus. And, I told them, doing for others because it is the right thing to do is what Jesus was talking about in the 25th chapter of Matthew's gospel when he talks about the final judgment where we will be called to answer, for among other things, what we've



done or not done for others. Jesus tells them that he will call the people together and divide them into two groups, sheep on the right and goats on the left. He will tell the ones on the right to come and take their inheritance because; when he was hungry, he was given something to eat, when he was thirsty, he was given something to drink,



when he was a stranger, he was invited in, when he needed clothes, he was given clothing, when he was sick, he was taken in, and when he was in prison, they came and visited him. The sheep then asked when it was that they did all of these things for him and he answered; *I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me.* I told them that this is what we have here on this day, people who are doing for the least of these brothers and sisters because it is just the right thing to do. No questions asked. This kind of unconditional love, I told them, is truly a blessing to those who feel they've missed out on life's blessings, or they've lost

life's blessings. I told them to know that they, those who contributed to the project in some fashion or manner, were a blessing to people they don't know and probably will never meet. At that time, I read the blessing which is included in this newsletter which was an adaptation of a song by Mahalia Jackson entitled: Bless This House. I then gave the following dismissal: Go in peace and in your daily lives look for opportunities to feed the hungry, provide clean drinking water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, provide clean and warm clothing for those who need something to wear, lobby for healthcare so the sick can be healed, and push for prison reform so that those who have fallen short can be rehabilitated and take their rightful place in society. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

What a blessing it has been for our church to be in the right place at the right time to do what we can to partner with other like-minded people who just want to do the right thing for others who just need to be shown a little compassion and the love of Jesus Christ. Let us pray that this endeavor will inspire others to do those simple things that matter so much to the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.



*Bless Each House**

Bless each house
O Lord we pray
Make it safe
By night and day.

Bless these walls
So firm and stout
Keeping want
And trouble out.

Bless the roof
Though it is small
Let peace and joy
Lie over all.

Bless this door
That it may prove
Ever open
To hope and
love.

Bless each bed
so soft and
warm
Keeping us from
cold and harm.

Bless the Folks
Who Live within
Sheltering
From rain and
wind.

Bless the workers
Toiling there
Building homes
With love and care.

Bless each house
That it may be
Shelter, home, and
security.

Bless us all
That one day we
May live in love,,
In community.

Dedication of Peter's Place

A Village of Tiny Homes (12-31-2020)

*Sponsored by Bayside Housing and Hosted at the
Community United Methodist Church*

* Adapted from *Bless This House*; Song by Mahalia Jackson (1956);

by Barbara Morey, Housing Advocate

Christmas for South Seven

By Stephanie Buehler



We all have stories about what COVID-19 has meant in our lives this past year. Many people have fallen ill, become depressed or frustrated. But some stories, remarkably, are positive in nature. For instance, some of us have reduced the stress in our lives due to the inability to be out and about as much as we, perhaps, had been. That has resulted in a renewed and greater appreciation for family, friends, pets, home. We have also had to become more creative about how to deal with otherwise routine activities.

One disappointment for UMW came toward the very end of the year when we were unable to prepare the annual Christmas dinner for our South Seven friends. In typical fashion, however, UMW met on Zoom (our newest meeting platform) and came up with the idea of preparing gift bags for them instead. And what fun we had making them! Due to schedules and/or health considerations, some of our members wisely offered to bake cookies at home rather than coming to meetings or shopping.

That allowed a small, safe number of us to plan, shop for, assemble and deliver the gift bags. We want to thank our cookie bakers: Joan Flowers, Diane Jensen, Dale Kelley, AJ Laverty,

Continued on page 9

Lori Oberlander, Judy Olsen, Betty Prentice and Bev Rothenborg. Those involved in the planning, shopping, assembling/delivering aspect were Pat Chase, Marsha Hamacher, Audrey Sanderson and Stephanie Buehler.

Included in our Christmas-themed bags were: a pair of warm, cozy socks, a couple of nice bars of soap and small bottles of lotion, a small bottle of hand sanitizer, some assorted Christmas chocolates (which had to be purchased twice as Stephanie's dog ate the first ones, (fortunately with no ill effects!)), packets of spiced cider and cocoa mix, a large candy cane, a handmade mask by Pat Chase as well as a beautifully written Christmas card, and of course, a nice big bag of homemade cookies.

At the time of delivery, Audrey was self-quarantining so she and Larry could spend Christmas with their kids. Fortunately, AJ decided to join us. The people in South Seven couldn't have been nicer. With the exception of one gentleman who was very fearful of the virus and wouldn't accept his gift, everyone was so grateful.

This activity was definitely one of the highlights of Christmas 2020. Isn't "giving" what Christmas is all about, afterall?



“Bayside Christmas”



Photo by Marsha Hamacher

Just before Christmas, and soon after the gifts for Dove House and South Seven had been assembled, wrapped, and delivered, Scott received a phone call from Mike Schleckser, the new case manager of Bayside Housing and Services, asking about Christmas gifts for the residents there. The church had provided gifts in the past for Bayside through various church members' taking names and shopping from residents' wish lists. Because of COVID restrictions keeping people from their usual Christmas shopping and also because Mike was brand new at his job and just learning of this Christmas tradition, this request was quite last minute and a bit unexpected. Asked by Scott to help make Bayside residents have a happy Christmas, Stephanie and Marsha stepped in to help. With so much discouraging news in 2020, one bright spot in our community is that Bayside was able to remodel a few rooms to accommodate families. In light of that, for the first time we received requests for a few

children, from a skateboard to snow gloves to art supplies. All of the residents' lists included their Christmas dreams, from above mentioned children's wishes to slippers and dog toys on the adults' lists. Stephanie worked with Mike to fine tune those lists to gifts that fit what we could reasonably provide. The variety of wishes made them interesting to shop for - dog grooming tools, a clock radio, a dictionary/thesaurus, and a sweater to name a few - and each resident ended up with some of their dreams fulfilled in a pretty gift bag with a little bit of chocolate on the side. It was heartwarming to be able to provide Christmas cheer to Bayside and now that Mike is better acquainted with the process, next year should be even more fun!

Pastor Scott received some "Thank you" cards from Bayside Housing. He has transcribed their messages, see below:

"Thank-yous from Bayside"

(First One)

Thank you Pastor Scott and the United Methodist Church you shepherd! I am so happy to have the dictionary and thesaurus! I love words! I am an artist and poet and love Port Hadlock for all the poetic and festive sensibilities here. Thank you for going out of your way to give us all here at Bayside a feeling of being part of a community! Grozie

(Second One)

Dear "Secret Santa" of Community United Methodist Church, Thank you so much for the desk calendar and uniball pens. (Something I could not find or afford!) Thank you for all you are doing to help the homeless and affordable housing problem. Bayside Housing has helped me so much that I am going to always be a volunteer for this non-profit even after I "graduate" and move to a new home. Bless you and all of us during this hard pandemic winter. Love,
Rose H.



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:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| December | OlyCAP | \$250.00 |
| January: | ECHHO | \$ |
| February: | Food Bank | \$ |
| March: | OlyCAP | \$ |
| April: | ECHHO | \$ |
| May: | Food Bank | \$ |
| June: | OlyCAP | \$ |
| July: | ECHHO | \$ |
| August | Food Bank | \$ |
| September | OlyCAP | \$ |
| October | ECHHO | \$ |
| November | Food Bank | \$ |

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

BIRTHDAYS

18 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

ALTAR FLOWERS

3
10
17
24

COMMUNION SERVERS

31

COUNTERS

3
10
17
24

GREETERS

31

3
10
17
24
31

HOSPITALITY

3
10
17
24
31

LITURGISTS

3
10
17
24
31

SUNDAY SCHOOL

3
10
17
24
31

USHERS

3
10
17
24
31

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.



JANUARY LECTIONARY READINGS

Jan 3

Isa 60:1-6
Ps 72:10-14
Eph 3:1-12
Matt 2:1-12

Jan 10

Gen 1:1-5
Ps 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Jan 17

1 Sam 3:1-10
Ps 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Cor 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Jan 24

Jon 3:1-5, 10
Ps 62:5-12
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Jan 31

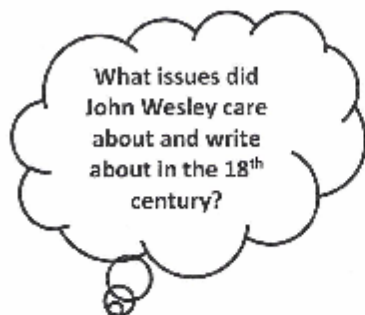
Deut 18:15-20
Ps 111
1 Cor 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

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

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

Monthly Devotion

A Time for Beauty

[Isaiah 61:1–7 \(NIV\)](#)

By Jennifer Benson Schuldt

A crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning. [Isaiah 61:3](#)

One January morning I woke expecting to see the same dreary midwinter landscape that had greeted me for several weeks: beige grass poking through patches of snow, gray skies, and skeletal trees. Something unusual had happened overnight, though. A frost had coated everything with ice crystals. The lifeless and depressing landscape had become a beautiful scene that glistened in the sun and dazzled me.

Sometimes we view problems without the imagination it takes to have faith. We expect pain, fear, and despair to greet us every morning, but overlook the possibility of something different ever happening. We don't expect recovery, growth, or victory through God's power. Yet the Bible says God is the one who helps us through difficult times. He repairs broken hearts and liberates people in bondage. He comforts the grieving with "a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair" ([Isaiah 61:3](#)).

It isn't that God just wants to cheer us up when we have problems. It's that He Himself is our hope during trials. Even if we have to wait for heaven to find ultimate relief, God is present with us, encouraging us and often giving us glimpses of Himself. In our journey through life, may we come to understand St. Augustine's words: "In my deepest wound I saw your glory, and it dazzled me."

**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