

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of  
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



March 2021

## Three Trees on a Rock



Photos by Teresa Rosekrans

As we were on our Arizona vacation earlier this month we stayed in Sedona for a couple of days. We took advantage of the great weather one day and went on a hike out into the wilderness. As we walked along taking in the beauty of northern Arizona, I spotted this one lone tree perched high upon a rock for all to see. As I marveled at this tree growing where it shouldn't be growing, I began to realize that I might be looking at two or three trees. Yeah, I know there is only one tree in the picture, but my legal train-

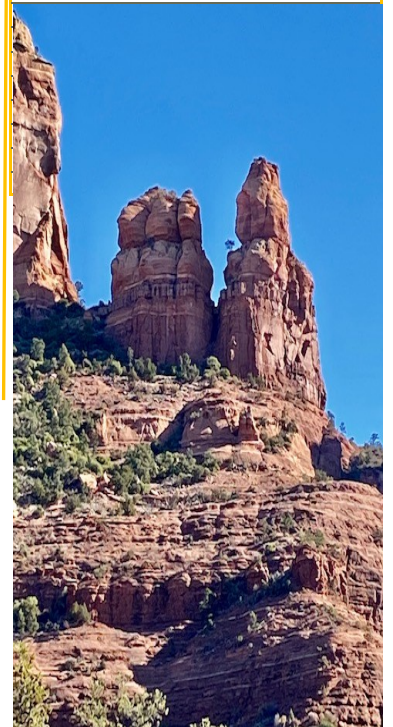
ing moves me to see alternate sides of an issue, to be able to argue different sides of the case, to visualize what others don't.

At first, I thought I saw a great sermon on persistence. Who knows how this seedling from which this tree grew got to the top of this rock, took root, and grew tall to where it stood out for all to see and marvel. I saw this tree persevering against all odds to grow and stretch out to the sky providing a place for birds to perch, to be useful, to fulfill a purpose. A testament to sticking it out. God is there during those times when it

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seems bleak giving us the strength to go on, to fulfill our purpose in His plan. And then I thought how does this tree survive in the scorching heat of the Arizona summers and bone numbing cold of the desert winter? I mean, those would have to be some pretty long roots to go down to the ground where water was scarce. The roots would have to be awfully strong to anchor the tree against the strong winds that have eroded the surrounding rocks for eons. And then I thought, God really does provide us with what we need to survive. You know, "Give us this day our daily bread." The tree serves as a reminder that there will be times in our lives when we feel alone and abandoned in our own deserts, out there and exposed, but that God is right there with us providing us with what we need to see ourselves through to better days. I shall not want.

And then I looked down at all the trees and vegetation around me, the various species of cacti, the desert wildflowers, the scrub brush and the different types of pine trees all growing and living in communion with the other plants and wildlife and I thought to myself that this tree up on the rock has no idea what life is like down here on the desert floor. This tree represents those of us who have set ourselves up on a rock safe and secure from all of the drama and daily turmoil that is right outside our doors. Some of us, like the tree, have positioned ourselves where we are unapproachable. We have all we need and couldn't be bothered if you tried. We're unapproachable and unconcerned about what is going on below. If it doesn't affect us, so why should we worry or even care? It's every tree for itself. All the other trees and vegetation seemed to be competing for the same water and nutrients needed to sustain life, while the tree on the rock had all it needed and saw no reason to share or care. What a lonely and unfulfilling existence.

So, if we're honest with ourselves, really honest, there have probably been times in our lives when we've had to hang on with all we got just to persevere, and other times when God provided all we needed during our times of want. And there may have been times when we were comfortable proudly standing alone, not needing anyone or wanting anything because we had all we needed and more. But what we really want to be, what God has designed us for is to be one of those trees living in communion with all the other trees, vegetation, wildflowers and wildlife, sharing in the growing experiences of life on God's forest floor, and the eventual welcomed death that comes after a life fully lived in community and purpose within the Father's glorious creation.

Faithfully, Scott



## THE CUMC PANTRY AND CLOTHING ROOM

By Jean Holtz

February 2021 saw the creation of the CUMC Food Pantry. Our Pastor, Scott, had the vision of providing more services to our Tri-Area low income and homeless persons. I shared Scott's vision and had the energy. Scott immediately identified a room in the Church Offices that was not being used very much. This room is directly across from the existing Clothing Room, already established and currently maintained by the Church and very hard-working church members such as, A. J. Laverty, Marsha Hamacher, Teresa Rosekrans and others to name a few. Thanks to Laurel Ankeny for donating some of the shelving and to Don and Jim Olsen for putting them together.



Photo by Scott Rosekrans

We cleaned out the room identified for the Pantry and Scott quickly ordered and assembled shelving units for the food. Next, he asked Church members to donate food to the Pantry. Many did so. I also conducted a food drive in Port Ludlow Village Market parking lot. The first collection brought us three cars full of food. Joan Flowers, Marsha Hamacher, Betty Prentice, J.J. Jacobson, and Debra Fulton helped on the second and third food collections where we brought in another pickup truck & two cars full of food. So much food has been brought in that, after stocking the shelves, we also had to create two food storage areas.

During the past two weeks we have been very fortunate to have the help from some church members from the Peace Lutheran Church out of the Port Ludlow area. Peace Lutheran does not yet have an established church structure but meet (and now Zoom) at the Beach Club in Port Ludlow. These women, Jean Schubert, Carol Fett and Carolyn (sorry, didn't get last name yet) plus one of the residents from Peter's Place now help with the Saturday Open Hours.

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Photo by Jean Holtz

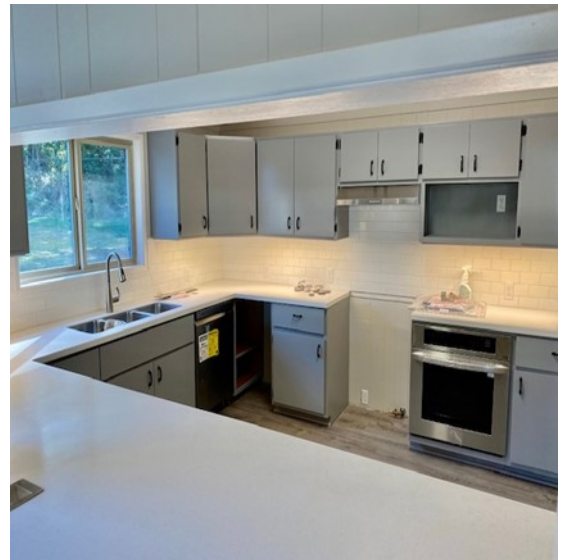
At present we have plenty of food, blankets and clothing but we need to invite more “clients” to come in and share in the bounty of our collections. I will be re-printing our “Opening” flyer and taking them to post at the Port Hadlock Laundromat, Tri-Area Community Center and both Post Offices in the Port Hadlock and Chimacum locations. Please spread the word that the Food Pantry and Clothing Room are now open every Saturday morning from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. I will send anyone a flyer announcing the opening. Just email me:

[Jholtz3444@gmail.com](mailto:Jholtz3444@gmail.com)

## Lenten Altar Display



Photo by Scott Rosekrans



## KITCHEN REMODEL UPDATE

The remodel is finished with the exception of ordering a stove to replace the one damaged in shipping.



Photos by Scott Rosekrans



# Peter's Place Welcome Bags

By Stephanie Buehler

From a brilliant “seed” planted by Ruth Altis, a small “tree” is now blooming in the form of welcome bags for our new neighbors at Peter's Place. Ruth had suggested to Scott that we give each resident a New Testament in large print. Scott loved the idea and thought an issue of Upper Room might also be appropriate. Well, on a roll from gift bags made over the holidays for the South 7 and Bayside residents, Marsha and Stephanie offered to make full blown welcome bags. In addition to the above, we added to each bag, a beautiful warm scarf made by Pat Chase, a mini-hygiene kit, a notepad and pen, a couple of protein bars, tangerines and a nicely written welcome note inviting them to join us for a Sunday service once church is again open, and to visit our Clothes Closet and Food Pantry on Saturday mornings. Eight bags were delivered two weeks ago: 6 were delivered personally and 2 were left in the trailer kitchen with residents' names on them. At the time of delivery, 4 of the 12 homes were still unoccupied. We met Carol, the first resident to move in and who we lovingly refer to as the mayor or ambassador of Peter's Place. She gave us a tour of the village which included the trailer and the small garden she is planting. She is a caregiver at heart, looks after everyone and has brought several new residents over to the church on Saturday mornings.

Filling the homes has been more of a challenge than anticipated for several reasons, but we knew this would be an experiment. Although it's been a task keeping up with who's moved in and who's moved out, it's such a success story to know several have already moved out and into more permanent housing, which, of course, is the ultimate goal.



Photo by Scott Rosekrans

Local

MISSION  
of the  
MONTH

2021

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	\$ 200.00
March:	OlyCAP	\$
April:	ECHHO	\$
May:	Food Bank	\$
June:	OlyCAP	\$
July:	ECHHO	\$
August	Food Bank	\$
September	OlyCAP	\$
October	ECHHO	\$
November	Food Bank	\$
December	OlyCAP	\$

## FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

<b>02/28/21</b>	<b>2021 year to date</b>		
Income	\$23,514.96		
Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$19,948.96		
Other Income	\$3,566.00		
Expenses	\$18,747.03		
Apportionments	\$2,916.36		
Local Program Ministry	\$1,874.05		
Operation Expenses	\$5,814.69		
Personnel Expenses	\$8,141.93		
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$4,767.93		

BIRTHDAYS		HOSPITALITY	OUR PRAYERS
1	Ted Buehler	7	<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>
1	AJ Lavery	14	
7	Mike Perzel	21	
11	Margie Webb	28	
12	Liz Hazen		
14	Gladys Heinzinger		
21	Chuck Boggs		
ALTAR FLOWERS		LITURGISTS	
7		7	
14		14	
21		21	
28		28	
COMMUNION SERVERS		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
7		7	
14		14	
21		21	
28		28	
COUNTERS		USHERS	
7		7	
14		14	
21		21	
28		28	
GREETERS			
7		7	
14		14	
21		21	
28		28	



### MARCH LECTIONARY READINGS

#### Mar 7

Exod 20:1-17  
Ps 19  
1 Cor 1:13-22  
John 2:13-22

#### Mar 14

Num 21:4-9  
Ps 107:1-3, 17-22  
Eph 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

#### Mar 21

Jer 31:31-34  
Ps 51:1-12  
Heb 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

#### Mar 28

Liturgy of the Palms  
Mark 11:1-11  
Ps 118:1-2, 19-29



# March 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
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 8:00 Men's Break-
28 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship						

March 2, 2021

## Safe and Still

Matthew 28:20

By Xochitl Dixon

As a full-of-energy preschooler, my son Xavier avoided afternoon quiet time. Being still often resulted in an unwanted, though much needed, nap. So, he'd wiggle in his seat, slide off the sofa, scoot across the hardwood floor, and even roll across the room to evade the quiet. "Mom, I'm hungry . . . I'm thirsty . . . I have to go to the bathroom . . . I want a hug."

Understanding the benefits of stillness, I'd help Xavier settle down by inviting him to snuggle. Leaning into my side, he'd give in to sleep.

Early in my spiritual life, I mirrored my son's desire to remain active. Busyness made me feel accepted, important, and in control, while noise distracted me from fretting over my shortcomings and trials. Surrendering to rest only affirmed my frail humanity. So I avoided stillness and silence, doubting the Lord could handle things without my help.

But God is our refuge, no matter how many troubles or uncertainties surround us. The path ahead may seem long, scary, or overwhelming, but His love envelops us. He hears us, answers us, and stays with us . . . now and forever into eternity (**Psalm 91:1-16**).

We can embrace the quiet and lean into God's unfailing love and constant presence. We can be still and rest in Him, because we're safe under the shelter of His unchanging faithfulness (v. 4).



### Community United Methodist Church

Open Hearts Open Doors Open Minds

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1165  
Physical Address: 130 Church Lane  
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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