

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of  
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



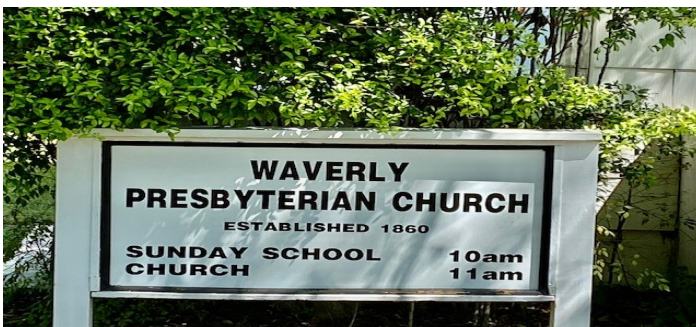
April 2021

## Unity in Community



Photos by Teresa Rosekrans

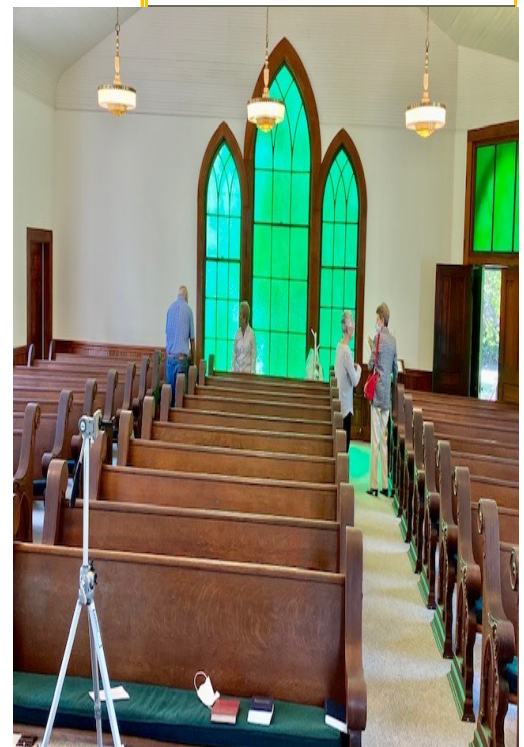
I write this as Teresa and me are vacationing in East Texas where we are visiting her family and staying with her mother. On Sunday we attended church at the Waverly Presbyterian Church in Old Waverly, Texas. It's the church that Teresa's grandfather went to and, like my granddaughter, she tagged along on Sunday mornings. The church, established in 1860, is in a beautiful location that is peaceful, calm, and inviting. When you walked in and sat down in one of the pews you could feel yourself becoming a part of a fellowship of worshippers going back 160 years. If only the walls could talk and bear witness to the births and deaths, lives lived and lives lost, and the testimonies of great faith and love.



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The pastor, Dan Alexander, who I served on the local school board with back when we lived in the area, brought a great message about unity. He started talking about the unity within your family and the bonds of relations, and then he talked about the unity within the local community of faith, as in all the different small churches, most of them African American, and whether or not we shared a unity. He then asked whether or not there was a global unity within the greater Church of Jesus Christ where we all shared that common goal of love of neighbor and peace on earth. And he talked about unity as it related to our own country which kind of touched on an article I read recently regarding the split between Evangelical Christians and Progressive Christians all over politics. Wow, I thought, this unity topic is good for a whole sermon series! Dan needs to come to Port Hadlock and preach some Sunday.

So, I experienced what I am afraid many of you experience when I preach. My mind began to wander, but that's a good thing. Dan got me to thinking about our church and the subject of unity where I asked myself: Is there unity in Community? I'd like to think so, but few pastors would like to publicly admit that there is disunity in the pews. But let's ask ourselves a few questions and you can take time to answer them on your own. Maybe you should get a piece of paper and write your answers down along with follow-up questions. First, are we unified as a church? Are we unified behind our mission statement? Does everything we do advance our mission statement in a unified manner? Are unified in what we are doing in our community outreach? Is the Puget Sound Missional District unified? I mean it says missional in the name, how are we being led in that direction? Is the Pacific Northwest Conference unified, is there a clearly defined plan or direction for the future? Is the greater United Methodist Church unified and do people know what we stand for as a denomination? Is our country, the United States of America, unified, and do we really believe that all men are created equal and endowed of certain unalienable rights by their creator? Is the world unified with countries working together to end poverty, hunger, disease and war? You get the point and can even add a few questions of your own.

As we thankfully and gratefully come out of this pandemic, we should be asking ourselves questions such as these as we work to become a presence for good and unity in the new normal. As Jesus led by example we too must set an example in our own community and be leaders in the fight for social justice not only in the Tri-Area but wherever we can. As a church that has unity in its name, we should be working hard to unify those people and entities around us to do what is right and just for the common good of God's people. We've worked hard over the past few years to reestablish our footprint here in the community to where people know where the Methodist Church is, what we do, and what we stand for. As we move into the next phase of our church life let us look for those opportunities to be a unifying presence in a world intent upon division.



# Volunteering for UMCORE

By Scott Rosekrans



While I was on vacation I did some volunteer work at the Texas Annual Conference UMCOR Affiliated Warehouse in Conroe, Texas. I first learned about this facility after Hurricane Harvey devastated Texas a few years ago. I wanted our church to do something more than just send a check so I searched the UMCOR website and located this facility just north of Houston. I asked them if we could send some hygiene kits and they said yes, as many as we wanted. We organized a hygiene kit making project and sent several dozen to them. In the grander scheme of the massive disaster it probably wasn't a proverbial drop in the bucket but they remembered the kits from Washington State. Teresa and I visited there not long after and took a tour of the facility.

When the Houston area was hard hit by the recent freeze that caused millions of dollars in damage because of bursting water pipes I called them again offering help and Christine Riggle, the manager who had previously given us a tour, suggested that we send money to the Texas Annual Conference, which we did. We sent \$1,795.00.



Photos by Scott Rosekrans



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I called and said I'd love to come back and do some volunteering and she quickly accepted my offer. She put me to work breaking down some old hygiene kits that were left over from Hurricane Harvey. The toothpaste was out of date and many of the little bottles of shampoo had spit open making quite a mess. We salvaged what we could for future kits. And I got another idea from them to bring back to Community. They have taken these little make-up size bags and have filled them with things that ladies might like and need. The bags are pretty (you may have some at home that you've forgotten about) and are quite popular with the women that receive them. A few of these bags might be a nice

addition to our Food Pantry/Mission Room inventory.

Anyway, it was a great experience and when I got back into town I got an invitation to attend a Methodist Men's Breakfast tomorrow morning. It's good to be a Methodist.



## BAYSIDE HOUSING ALERT

**Give Online**  
  
[www.baysidehousing.org/donate](http://www.baysidehousing.org/donate)

**Give by Mail**  
  
 Bayside Housing & Services  
 PO Box 927  
 Port Hadlock, WA 98339

**Support Bayside Housing & Services while doing your shopping:**  
  
[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

**Get Involved with a Build**  
  
[www.baysidehousing.org/tiny-hou](http://www.baysidehousing.org/tiny-hou)

Connect with Us!



**Donations We Love!**

- Gardening Tools
- Propane
- Patio/Lawn Chairs
- Kitchen Utensils
- TV's & Laptops
- Disinfecting wipes
- Over-the-Counter Medications
- Cases of Bottled Water

For item donations, email [donations@baysidehousing.org](mailto:donations@baysidehousing.org)

# And When You Pray

By Scott Rosekrans

Whenever I go on vacation I always take several books with me to read during down times and on airplanes, especially on airplanes. This trip, 30,000 feet closer to God, I took out a book I've been reading on the Sermon on the Mount by Amy-Jill Levine.

As I was reading the chapter on Practicing Piety I got to the part about prayer. In our busy lives we often find ourselves too busy for prayer. It's not that we don't want to pray, it's just that there are so many other pressing matters and by the time we find time to pray, we're exhausted. Amy says: "All conversations with God are a form of prayer." I like that. Sometimes it may appear that I am talking to myself but I'm actually having a running conversation with God. I know Jesus tells us to set aside time to where we can be alone with God, when we go into our room, our quiet place where no one can see or hear us, and we have that personal one-on-one with God where we pour our hearts out. But I really think God is fine with those little short comments that are a kind of spur of the moment thing. She says prayer can be praise, it can be a lament, a demand or an accusation. I like that because it pretty much covers all of my daily mutterings. God hears me when I praise Him, but He also hears me when I'm grouching about something and those are prayers that especially need to be answered.

Professor Levine says that prayer suggests relationship; regardless of how angry we may be at God, and we have lots of reasons to be angry, from the death of a loved one to global issues such as war, poverty, genocide, and natural destruction. Prayer, she says, says that we are still connected. Prayer means that the channels of communication are still open and that we have not walked away from either personal or community-defined piety. She says that prayer in anger is not hypocrisy; it's honesty. I like that. Prayer that asks "why" is not a sign of disbelief; it expresses our human resistance to chaos. There are things that make us mad like social injustice when we that somebody ought to do something. That angry prayer gets us focused and now that God has our attention, He uses the Holy Spirit to lead us to be a person or a people who are a part of the solution. Prayer should ask why. We ask the questions and God gives us the answers, the solutions, the remedies, the right course of action.

Prayer helps us get our minds right. It helps us sort things out. God already knows what we want. The prayer is our opportunity to put those needs into words. And, it helps to know that others are praying for us, petitioning God on our behalf. As we were about a third of the way to our final destination the captain of the plane came on and asked if there were any medical personnel on board to assist with a medical emergency. I didn't see anyone jump up and run to the back of the plane so I did what I could, I prayed and I can assume that in the almost full plane that I was not the only one praying. People find comfort in knowing that someone, even a stranger, is praying for them. I get a lot of prayer requests from our church family for prayers, prayers for themselves, prayers for family and friends, and prayers for people they don't know, people who just need someone praying for them. I pray for the people who come into our church for help and often times I ask you to pray for them too. Many times, I'll offer up a prayer as they are leaving thanking God for sending them to us and for the opportunity to be of some small assistance. And, I almost always ask them if there is anything



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else we can do for them and often times they ask for prayers. They are in a desperate situation and it brings them comfort knowing that someone out there is praying for them. Somebody out there knows they exist and are petitioning God on their behalf. I know God answers those prayers when He gives us another mission idea or an opportunity to be “that” church that helps the homeless.

That’s the one thing I can say about Community United Methodist Church. We don’t sit around worrying about the future and what or where we’ll be tomorrow or next year. Our prayers are not self-centered, but God-centered. We do our best to focus on what it is that God wants us to be and do in His service. And that’s what we do, when we pray.

## Easter 2021



Photos by Teresa 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	\$ 500.00
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

03/31/21	2021 year to date
Income	\$29,422.68
Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$23,766.68
Other Income	\$5,656.00
Expenses	\$41,030.72
Apportionments	\$4,324.54
Local Program Ministry	\$4,560.04
Operation Expenses	\$20,081.37
Personnel Expenses	\$12,064.77
Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$11,608.04
Note: Expenses includes balance of cost of kitchen kitchen remodel not paid in 2020: \$11,376.41.	

BIRTHDAYS	HOSPITALITY	OUR PRAYERS
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1 Betty Prentice	4 11 18 25	<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>
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<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>  4 11 18 25	<b>LITURGISTS</b>  4 11 18 25
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<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>  4 11 18 25	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  4 11 18 25
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<b>COUNTERS</b>  4 11 18 25	<b>USHERS</b>  4 11 18 25
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<b>GREETERS</b>  4 11 18 25	
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### APRIL LECTIONARY READINGS

#### Apr 4

Acts 10:34-43  
Ps 18:1-2,14-24  
1 Cor 15:1-11  
John 20:1-18

#### Apr 11

Acts 4:32-35  
Ps 133  
1 John 1:19-31  
John 20:19-31

#### Apr 18

Acts 3:12-19  
Ps 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

#### Apr 25

Acts 4:5-12  
Ps 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18



April 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	8  Admin, Financial Meetings 6pm Zoom	9  Beginners Praise Hula 11:30 am	10
		5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)					
11 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	12	13  5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	14	15 10:00am Fleece Scarf Making 6:00pm Admin/ Finance Meeting 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	16  11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Praise Hula Class	17  UMW District Leadership Meeting hosted by CUMC	
18 UMCOR Offering 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	19	20  2:00pm Chicks in Stitches 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	21	22 10:00am Mini Hygiene Kits 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	23  Beginners Praise Hula Class 11:30am	24	
25 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	26	27	28	29	30		

## Church Reopening Plan

### Community United Methodist Church.

1. One door will be used for entry into the church on Sunday morning. It will be the main entry door usually used by the congregation. We will have a bistro table at the door with masks available for those without masks along with hand sanitizer and gloves if desired. The usher will be responsible for recording who is in attendance for contact tracing should it become necessary.
  - a. As we are limited to 25 worshipers, we will either require people to sign up via email ahead of time, or we will go to an alternating Sunday schedule with names beginning with A-L attending on the first and third Sundays and names beginning with M-Z attending on the second and fourth Sundays. Fifth Sundays will be by sign-up only. To avoid confusion, the congregation will be reminded of the attendance schedule each week via the weekly email from the pastor. Additionally, a schedule will be printed in each monthly Newsletter for attendees to keep.
  - b. Temperatures will be checked upon entering the building and if anyone has a temperature or exhibits any symptoms they will not be allowed to attend. Approved signage will be placed at each entry door detailing the Covid-19 symptoms along with a directive that persons entering must wear a mask.
  - c. Masks must be worn at all times except by the Liturgist and Pastor when speaking from the pulpit.
2. Weather permitting, the door will remain open so no one has to touch the door handle. Sanitizing wipes will be available to wipe down the door handles. Additionally, weather permitting, windows will be opened during the service allowing cross-ventilation.
3. Inside the door on a second bistro table we'll have bulletins for people to pick up so the greeter doesn't have to handle them, or the greeter could wear gloves to avoid multiple handling of the bulletins.
4. Ushers will encourage social distancing in seating. Currently, there are only 44 chairs in the sanctuary/narthex that have been appropriately spaced.
  - a. The chairs are arranged in pairs so members of the same household may sit together. If not of the same household worshipers will be required to sit separately.
5. No handshaking, hugging, or handholding at the end of the service. People will be encouraged to exit the building by having the worshipers in the back leave first. We will advise them of the location of a no-touch trash can for them to deposit their bulletins



6. A third bistro table will have the collection basket on it for people to drop their offering in so we don't have to pass it from one person to the next.
7. Singing will not be allowed until approved. Hymnals have been removed from the chairs. The pianist will play several verses of the selected hymns during the service which will allow for meditation and reflection.
8. If Communion is observed we will use individual prepackaged communion wafers and juice. Servers will not speak and will wear their masks.
9. No hospitality time after the service and we will not have coffee available for those arriving early as we have in the past.
10. We will make sure the church is cleaned and sanitized before and after each Sunday service.
  - a. Restrooms will be appropriately cleaned and sanitized each week. Sanitary wipes and hand sanitizer will be available in each restroom.
  - b. All areas of the church will be blocked off except the sanctuary and restrooms.
11. We will continue to offer on-line Facebook Live services for those who still do not feel comfortable attending in-person worship.
12. During the week, for non-worship related activities, entrance will be through the main door of the administrative wing. No one will be admitted without wearing a mask.
  - a. Visitors seeking to visit with the pastor will be escorted to the library/conference room. They, while wearing a mask will sit at one end of the table and the pastor will sit at the other end, socially distanced. After the visitor has left the area where they had been seated will be sanitized with disinfectant spray and wipes.
  - b. Individuals or groups that come into the church during the week for activities will maintain proper distancing and wear masks at all times. Prior to leaving they will clean and sanitize the area used for their activities.
  - c. If and when such activities like Bible Study or committee meetings resume, proper social distancing will be maintained, and masks will be worn by all individuals in attendance. Prior to leaving, the area used for the activity will be cleaned and sanitized.

April 15, 2021

## The Baggage Activity

Leviticus 19:34 (NIV)

By Kristen Holmberg

Karen, a middle school teacher, created an activity to teach her students how to better understand one another. In “The Baggage Activity” students wrote down some of the emotional weights they were carrying. The notes were shared anonymously, giving the students insight into each other’s hardships, often with tearful response from their peers. The classroom has since been filled with a deeper sense of mutual respect amongst the teens, who now have a greater sense of empathy for one another.

Throughout the Bible, God has nudged His people to treat one another with dignity and show empathy in their interaction with others ([Romans 12:15](#)). As early in the history of Israel as the book of Leviticus, God pointed the Israelites toward empathy—especially in their dealings with foreigners. He said to “love them as [themselves]” because they too had been foreigners in Egypt and knew that hardship intimately ([Leviticus 19:34](#)).

Sometimes the burdens we carry make us feel like foreigners—alone and misunderstood—even among our peers. We don’t always have a similar experience to draw on as the Israelites did with the foreigners among them. Yet we can always treat those God puts in our paths with the respect and understanding that we, ourselves, desire. Whether a modern-day middle schooler, an Israelite, or anything in between, we honor God when we do.

**Community United Methodist Church**

Open Hearts Open Doors Open Minds

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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

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Pastor’s Office Hours:

10 am - 3 pm, Monday &amp; Wednesday

10 am - 6 pm, Tuesday