

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



May 2021

Defining Progress

As most of you know, I didn't go to seminary so most of what I know about church I learned in the cheap seats on Sunday mornings, and from reading books where I try to learn from the author what works. Unfortunately, most of the books are about what didn't work so I guess the lesson is not to repeat their mistakes. Start fresh and make your own and then write a book and make some real money. One of the first books I read early on said not to expect to see any real progress during the first three to five years of your ministry. I can tell you, that was of little comfort as I was assigned to a church with an enrollment that had declined to the point where it couldn't afford a fulltime ordained pastor. No pressure there! Fortunately, I was blessed with a congregation and church leadership that was willing to give me shot. What could possibly go wrong?

Well, here we are, and I am just a little more than a month short of completing my fifth year as your pastor. So, the question is: Are we making any progress? I guess the answer depends upon how you define progress. When I got here our average Sunday attendance was in the sixties and just before COVID closed us down a year ago we were averaging around fifty. So yes, our numbers are down, and we've lost folks to death, moving into retirement homes, moving to be closer to their kids, moving on to another church, or just not attending any church at all. But, if you look around, we've also brought in some truly amazing people who not only like what they see but have invested themselves into what and who we are as a congregation.

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As we look back over the last five years let's take a look at a few of the things we've been able to accomplish. We remodeled our sanctuary and narthex updating it and making it a welcoming space in which to worship. We painted the exterior of the church to give it a fresh new look for those who are driving by looking for a church. We spruced up several of our rooms like the Sunday School room and Nursery making them more inviting. We've converted three of our unused rooms in mission-oriented spaces that accommodate our many mini-missions that serve the mission field within our own community. We've raised and given away tens of thousands of dollars to countless entities whose job it is to help those in need and even went on a few mission trips of our own. When approached by a group of people looking for a place to put a tiny home village, we gladly allowed them to construct it and place it on our property right next to Margaret's Village. And, while being shut down we replaced our aging heating system and remodeled our kitchen. There are more but I think you get the idea.

So, are we making progress? Well, if the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, then yes, I think we've made progress. But the real question is where do we go from here? We're just emerging from a year-long shutdown and we're not getting any younger. I mean, I have a hard time believing that God would send us the Holy Spirit to guide us in all we've done in transforming our own little sphere of influence to just shut us down in a couple of years. You see, this is what keeps me awake at night. So, what did I do? I read a book. I actually re-read a book entitled Simple Church. Of course, it talked about all the things that failing and diminishing churches did up to the point where they closed their doors. Essentially, what the authors espoused was getting back to the basics and uncomplicating your church. They said,

as a church, you had to do three things: love God, love others, and serve others. Well, I'm pretty sure as a congregation that we love God, love others and serve others, so what's the catch? To that they really didn't have an answer other than to move people from the sanctuary into small groups and then get them involved in missions. I guess the challenge then is getting them into the sanctuary which was a pretty tough thing to do during year five thanks to the pandemic. But, when you think about it, through the use of Facebook Live we actually did get some folks into the sanctuary. We now have to figure out how to actually get them to 130 Church Lane. I'm doing what I can to make our services as inviting as possible with the amazing help and support of our Sunday morning worship team. But what you have to do is make the invitation to come and join us. Invite them to check us out on Facebook Live and then follow up with an invitation to come one Sunday and sit with you. Maybe you know someone who has been watching. Engage them, answer their questions, invite them. And once they get here, we have to engage them and get them involved in a small group so they can expand their spirituality. That means starting small groups. Traditionally, that used to be Sunday School classes, but we have to expand our paradigm and be more creative. The small groups might even be our mini-missions as a way of casually getting to know someone and letting them get to know us as they engage in God's service. The third leg is serving others and I think this is where we shine. The authors say that churches who are living as missional communities in their culture are often quite simple. I agree, I think we are quite simple in our approach and we truly understand the importance of mission work. Our mission work is transformative not only for us but for our community. The authors point out that a true





disciple is someone who seeks to transform the community around him or her. A disciple understands that he or she is a missionary. Does that describe anyone you know? And missional churches give thoughtful consideration to the community in which God has placed them. That, I truly believe, describes Community United Methodist Church to a T. Remember, people ask us if we're "that" church, the church that helps the homeless. They know that is our mission, our calling, what suits us.

So yes, I do think we are making progress, but as we emerge out of this pandemic, we will have our work cut out for us. This I believe; the Holy Spirit didn't bring us this far only to have God tell us well done good and faithful servant, enter into your rest. We have been training for what lies ahead of us for the past couple of years and we must be ready to embrace whatever it is as we do what we can to be the kind of disciples that truly transform the world in Jesus' name.

Faithfully, Scott



Possible New Small Group

Are you interested in being part of a small group discussing new and developing ideas regarding Christian faith?

Such a group could be an opportunity to learn how some contemporary authors understand God and God's action in our lives. Other concepts such as Christian love, sin, salvation, grace, resurrection, eternal life, and the authority of the Bible could also be addressed. At the same time, such a group could provide an occasion to freely share and explore our own faith with other group members with no judgement or criticism.

If you are interested, please contact Larry Jensen at lpjensen15@gmail.com or (402)290-0963 and we can talk about the idea of such a group and how it might be organized.

Community United Methodist Church Mission Team!

Who ME? Why NOT YOU?

By Don Olsen

As you Probably well know, North Central Washington was affected once again by wildfires during last summer of 2020. The Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group is working with over 120 new fire survivors. There is much work to be done. The Recovery Group is reaching out to get a feel for who might be interested and willing to lend a hand in the coming months. It could be cleanup (both ash/and trash) fencing, dirt work, construction on home and outbuildings.

Eight of us from Community UMC have been on one or both of our Mission Teams in the last three years—some for the first time EVER... and reaped the rewards of “body and spirit” we would never have thought possible before we “signed up.” We range in age from early 60’s to somewhere near our late 70’s. Some of us have considerable building skills and some of us learned some new ones by on-the-job training.



Photos provided by Scott Rosekrans

Our first trip was to Okanogan County in Central Washington State that was devastated by wildfires. We did a little bit of everything, from putting up a barb wire fence, sanding a porch, building a new porch and cover from scratch. Our second trip was to Anchorage Alaska, to work on a Methodist Church that needed an entry way damaged by an earthquake and repainted some church classrooms.

Some of us wielded hammers and cut wood and metal roofing materials, others were busy with paint brushes. Some use their great skills as “Chuck Wagon Cooks” and kept all the workers fed.

BUT... I have no talents... you say? Some of us were thinking the same thing, at first. But we were willing to learn on the job and we Did It. As they say it’s not Rocket Science. Between the locals and our own team members we got the jobs done. We came home tired, yet, renewed by have made a difference in way that mattered.

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We are considering going to help “As we are ABLE” for those sisters and brothers who have lost in many cases, everything in disastrous situations! The gratitude and relief we experience in their eyes and our own sense of accomplishment, no matter how large or small, says it all.

Jesus called each one of us to give... to give whatever we can, as often as we can...even if it only a cup of water in His name. Doing a small part to help put a roof over the head of someone who has lost their home, will stay with you a lifetime. It is a Blessing to you and to them, that is priceless. It is what the Bible says, “a measure that overflows and keeps giving.”

The UMCOR group of our State is trying right now to organize a list of those areas of greatest needs in Eastern Washington, and is again appealing to those Churches that have a “giving spirit for Mission” and Community UMC is one of those churches. We are hoping that we can answer this call if and when we can fit our “talents” to the needs on that list.

Community United Methodist Church Mission Team! Who ME? Why Not Me?

If you would like to have a life-changing experience of a lifetime and consider this possibility, Please contact Don Olsen, at workingolsen2@gmail.com



Photos provided by Scott Rosekrans



Church Reopening

By Scott Rosekrans

The Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church has revised the guidelines that have been in place since last year and has shifted the decision making to local churches in accordance with Basic Standard Practices. What that means is that we can open our facilities up to more use. Effective May 17th churches can opt into one of two options. Option One, Basic Standard Practices, appears to be the option that will best meet our current situation. So, what can we do under Option One? Well, under Option One we can have up to 50 people for in-person worship which is double what we are currently allowed. Just before COVID shut us down last year we were averaging 45-50 on any given Sunday morning and with some folks still reluctant to get out in a crowd I am sure the 50 person limit will meet our needs. We can also have indoor gatherings such as small groups, meetings, our mini-mission activities, and allow outside groups to use our meeting space such as Alanon and other groups as long as our safety protocols are used. Masks are still required and, unfortunately, congregational singing is not allowed until further notice. So, with all that being said, as you are comfortable we'd love to see you on Sunday morning and please bring a friend.



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

By Terry Reitz

Community Methodist has had an extraordinarily exciting year. We have two lovely new keyboards and an expanded platform!

The first to arrive was a gift from Mark Schecter. And what a gift it is – the Knabe grand piano. Knabe is an American instrument maker with 200 year old roots in Germany. The founder emigrated after learning piano making and cabinetry and began working in Baltimore, eventually becoming Knabe & Gaehle, building high quality grands and square pianos. An example is the square grand made for Francis Scott Key and used by him until his death in 1843. It now resides in the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, TN. Knabe's company went to his sons who continued to produce high quality instruments many of which were used by the New York Metropolitan Opera. Today Knabe is the premium piano producer for Samik Music Corporation. Knabe pianos are handmade, limited production instruments and are tonally consistent and very durable. We can look forward to years of solid performance from our new piano.

The elegant Estey chapel organ that now graces the front of our church was a gift that came home. I have not been able to piece together the whole tale, but it seems that Community Methodist gave Trinity Port Townsend the organ when they had no instrument in their sanctuary. Trinity is redecorating and wanted to “re home” the Estey, and Scott and the Board nodded.

Estey is another venerable American company dating from the 1850's, producing reed organs through WWII making a “field” model for chaplains in the war zone. These instruments are highly collectible now and examples, like ours, in good condition are being played across the world. There is even a Reed Organ Society and Estey Museum on the site of the original factory in Brattleboro, VT.

It is with a grateful heart that I want to thank Scott, Don Olson, and the congregation of Community for your enthusiastic welcome of these classic American ladies to their safe home in Port Hadlock.

Blessings,

Terry

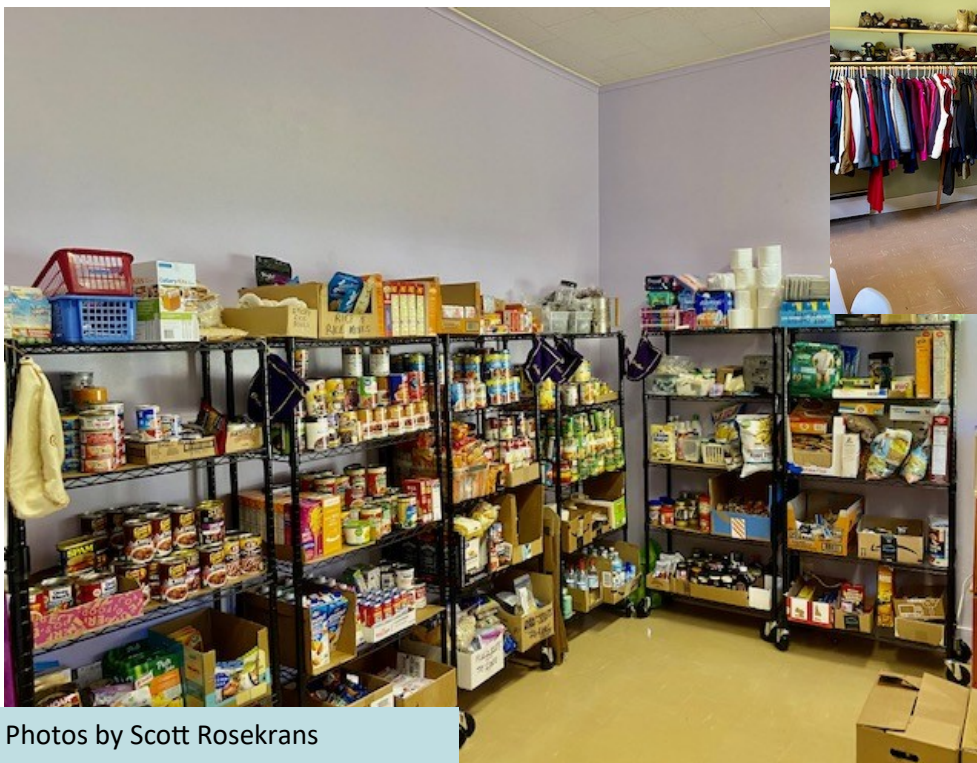


Photos by Scott Rosekrans

Our Volunteers

By Scott Rosekrans

Thanks to the volunteers who give of their time to make our Food Pantry and Clothes Closet a success. Our simple mission has grown to the point where we are now open on Saturdays from ten in the morning to one in the afternoon where we make our rooms accessible to those who come in needing clothing, bedding and food. And, as the word has gotten out, we have people come by with donations now that they know what we do. Being here on Saturday mornings is quite an experience and I encourage you to seriously consider volunteering. Bring a friend or a neighbor as we really want this to become a community oriented thing and not just a Methodist thing. Jean Holtz and Marsha Hamacher have come up with an email address for people to access regarding what is needed and to answer other questions. So if you have a question or something you'd like to donate you can email: cumc.donate@gmail.com and one of the ladies will get back to you. Some of the items that are currently in demand are camping gear such as tents, sleeping bags, mats, camp chairs and back-packs. Also there is always a need for sheets, blankets and pillows. Peter's Place can always use twin-size bedding but we can also use other sizes. I had a lady come in today that needed queen-size bedding and I was glad to help her out. Also towels and washcloths are always needed. For the Food Pantry we can always use canned meats such as Dinty Moore stew, chicken, beef, pork, ham and tuna. Small jars or packets of peanut butter and crackers are always popular as are low to no sugar drinks. Again, if you are interested in helping please send Jean and Marsha an email to cumc.donate@gmail.com and they will gladly find something for you to do.



Photos 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	\$ 500.00
April:	ECHHO	\$ 500.00
May:	Food Bank	\$
June:	OlyCAP	\$
July:	ECHHO	\$
August	Food Bank	\$
September	OlyCAP	\$
October	ECHHO	\$
November	Food Bank	\$
December	OlyCAP	\$

FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

04/30/21	2021 year to date
Income	\$47,076.15
Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$39,030.15
Other Income	\$8,046.00
Expenses	\$42,335.40
Apportionments	\$5,832.72
Local Program Ministry	\$5,566.25
Operation Expenses	\$15,297.54
Personnel Expenses	\$15,638.89
Surplus (excluding cost of kitchen remodel)	\$4,740.75
Cost of kitchen remodel paid in 2021	\$11,376.41
Deficit	-\$6,635.66

BIRTHDAYS		HOSPITALITY	OUR PRAYERS
4	Kendra Hermanson	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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.
5	Lori Witheridge	9	
9	Laurel Ankeny	16	
20	Michael Swartout	23	
21	Cal White	30	
24	Kathy Anderson		
24	Judy Olsen		
ALTAR FLOWERS		LITURGISTS	
2		2	
9		9	
16		16	
23		23	
30		30	
COMMUNION SERVERS		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
2		2	
9		9	
16		16	
23		23	
30		30	
COUNTERS		USHERS	
2		2	
9		9	
16		16	
23		23	
30		30	
GREETERS			
2		2	
9		9	
16		16	
23		23	
30		30	



MAYLECTIONARY READINGS

May 2

Acts 8:26-40
Ps 22:25-31
1 John 7:21
John 15:1-8

May 9

Acts 10:44-48
Ps 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 16

Acts 1:15-17,21-26
Ps 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 23

Acts 2:1-21
Ps 104:24-34
Rom 8:22-27
John 15:26-27

May 30

Isa 6:1-8
Ps 29
Rom 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

May 2021

May 2021

(Regular meetings are listed; however because of Covid-19 virus, these are temporarily cancelled.)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	3 Memory Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom)	4 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches	5	6 Admin, Financial Meetings 6pm Zoom	7 Beginners Praise Hula 11:30 am	8
		5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)				
9 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	10	11 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	12	13 10:00am Fleece Scarf Making 6:00pm Admin/Finance Meeting 7-8pm AI-Anon Meeting (Library)	14 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Praise Hula Class	15 UMW District Leadership Meeting hosted by CUMC
16 UMCOR Offering 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	17	18 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	19	20 10:00am Mini Hygiene Kits 7-8pm AI-Anon Meeting (Library)	21 Beginners Praise Hula Class 11:30am	22
23 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

In the Garden

John 20:18

April 4, 2021

By Alyson Kieda

My dad loved to sing the old hymns. One of his favorites was “In the Garden.” A few years back, we sang it at his funeral. The chorus is simple: “And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own, and the joy we share as we tarry there none other has ever known.” That song brought joy to my dad—as it does to me.

Hymn writer author C. Austin Miles says he wrote this song in spring 1912 after reading chapter 20 of the gospel of John. “As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary’s life when she knelt before her Lord and cried, ‘Rabboni [Teacher].’ ”

In John 20, we find Mary Magdalene weeping near Jesus’ empty tomb. There she met a man who asked why she was crying. Thinking it was the gardener, she spoke with the risen Savior—*Jesus!* Her sorrow turned to joy, and she ran to tell the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” (v. 18).

We too have the assurance that Jesus is risen! He’s now in heaven with the Father— but He hasn’t left us on our own. Believers in Christ have His Spirit inside us, and through Him we have the assurance and joy of knowing He’s with us, and we are “His own.”



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