

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



July 2021

Loving Our Neighbors

You hear it all the time. Someone says: "You know what it says in the Bible, love your neighbor." Yeah, that's what it says, but have we really given it that much thought, especially to the phrase that follows: "as yourself." This widely known and little applied phrase comes from an encounter that Jesus had with some religious leaders as to which of God's commandments were the greatest. Jesus responded: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.*

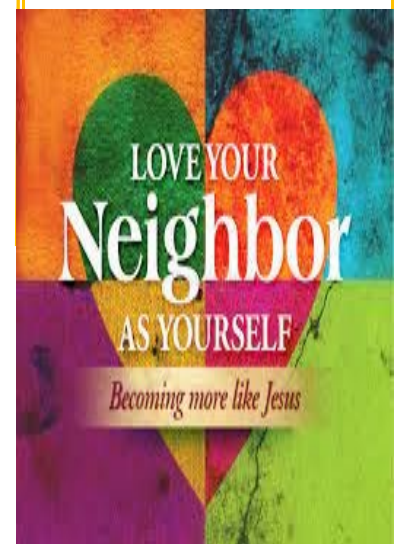
It's that "as yourself" that seems to give most people problems. If you were hungry you would get something to eat, if you were thirsty you would find something to drink, if you were naked or needed new clothes you'd find something to wear, if you were sick you'd go to the doctor, if you were a stranger you'd want someone to welcome you, and if you were in jail you'd want someone to come and visit you, and hopefully this person would be a family member and, if not, a trusted neighbor. So what Jesus is saying is that if the shoe was on your neighbor's foot you would be expected to extend your love in a similar manner as it was done to and for you.

But then again, it begs the question of who is your neighbor? In a simpler time, we all knew our neighbors and when some tragedy befell them like a house fire everyone in the community would pitch in and come to their aid because they knew it could also happen to them. But now we live in a global community which means our neighbors don't necessarily live next door. As you know, I monitor conversations on Facebook everyday for things that might support a sermon idea, and one of the common threads is actually a neighbor issue, although they don't realize it. In Jefferson County, and particularly in Port Townsend, there has been an ongoing debate over what to do with the homeless. They've zeroed in on those who are currently living out at the county fairgrounds with many posters vilifying these people with comments such as: "if they really wanted to better themselves, they'd get a job," or "all they want to do is lay around and drink or do drugs," or "why should they want to do anything when we take care of all their needs," or "nobody ever helped me when I was down."

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Essentially what they're saying is that, if pressed, they do love their neighbor, but have to draw the line somewhere. In a way, I think it's also a form of the fear of commitment. "If I commit to helping these people, will I be sucked into their lives, and will their problems become my problems?" "I'm not ready to make that kind of commitment. Anyway, it's not my problem." Well, actually it is your problem if you profess to being a follower of Jesus Christ and believe in these two commandments.

You see, this becoming a better Christian has quite a learning curve. It's like everytime I read something in the gospels I learn something new or the meaning of a passage becomes more clear and relevant, as opposed to those learners who believe everything they needed to know they learned in kindergarten. No matter how you try you can't tell them any different. So, here's an example of how my learning curve works. I like to read and in most everything I read I learn something and sometimes I learn something about myself, something that is lacking. As I've mentioned in a few of my recent sermons, I've read a religious biography on President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Roosevelt's three core Christian principles that guided him during his life were faith, hope and charity. He was really into charity and believed it was incumbent upon us as Christians to exhibit our Christian charity towards the less fortunate. What struck me was his belief that we couldn't really love our neighbors until we got to know them as people. Do you see it? He's talking about making a commitment, a commitment to getting to know your neighbors as people! Okay, let's add FDR to the list of people we want to meet when we get to heaven.

We didn't realize it, but when we committed to allowing Peter's Place to be built on our church property, we were committing to not only loving our neighbors, but to getting to know them as people. Being here on Saturday mornings when our mission rooms are open to the housing challenged in the Tri-Area is an amazing experience. The three rooms are alive with chatter as our volunteers interact and help our clients find what

they need. These visitors are treated with love, kindness, patience, understanding, and respect. I frequently look for an excuse to come to the church on Saturday mornings so I can witness these interactions and find myself being drawn into the conversations. And not only are we getting to know them as people they're getting to know us as Christians. Hopefully, we are giving Christians a good name. And what this allows me to do is to enter into these Facebook debates and throw out some of these anecdotes to counter the arguments vilifying these people as an unwanted and undesirable class, you know, the kind of people Jesus loved as himself.

Faithfully, Scott



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

Adventures in the Clothes Closet

By Marsha Hamacher

I really enjoy my Saturdays in the clothes closet. The camaraderie is great with Jean in the food pantry and household departments and our helpers from CUMC and Peace Lutheran Church and sometimes even Peter's Place; together we accomplish an amazing amount of work while having fun in the process. Plus, I'm told by my colleagues that our clients think that we are not only very helpful and accommodating, but a welcoming and friendly place to visit, too!

Last Saturday when I arrived at church ready to open up with Jean for our Saturday hours, I was absolutely delighted to find that the very talented Don Olsen had visited the small "closet within our closet" and added more shelves and racks on which we can hang even more clothing choices! Then Don showed up to add a screw at the end of the clothing rod so that the hangers wouldn't slide off the end – how thoughtful was that? We had a large piece of furniture that had been hidden in the small closet that we cannot use at this time, so he moved that into storage for us and we were ready to stock our new space. More excitement to follow...

I was busily hanging up all the shirts and blouses that had button up fronts on our new racks in the little closet when I decided to move a small portable hanging rack out of my way – big mistake! Behind the door of the small closet were stored two loose doors from somewhere else, just leaning up against the wall. I shoved the rack over which ran into those doors, throwing them off balance and swinging the closet door shut. Seeing what was happening, I jumped into the far corner of the closet just in time for the closet door to slam shut and the two doors behind it to fall on the floor, missing me by inches and trapping me in the closet! Jean and her friend Stephanie came running, but there was no way to get to me with the two doors holding the closet door shut. Fortunately, the fallen doors are hollow-core and I could lift them one by one and hold them in place while Jean opened the door and let me out. I think I will ask Don to come back and put those in storage, too! Whew!

We are constantly seeing such blessings happening all the time, but last Saturday was just full of them. Early on, one of the young women from Peter's Place came over looking for running shoes. We had several new types of shoes, but not running shoes and she was very sweet in declining to take any others that she didn't need because someone else might need them. We do run into this constantly, our clients caring about others, and it always warms my heart. In addition, she had brought two pair of casual shoes from her own closet that didn't fit her but were still in very good condition. She had washed them and brought them to us so others could have them instead. We've had other donations from clients, too: change for the Jesus cup and people bringing back things that didn't fit all clean and folded. I love our clients!

The day continued on with other small miracles: First, a gentleman came in who wears a size of clothing we usually don't have call for, but we were able to find him one summer shirt for the hot weather. But even better, a few minutes after he left, one of our volunteers who remembered him brought in a bag with sweats and long and short sleeved shirts in his size because her brother didn't need them anymore. I can't wait until our client comes back in! Next, going back to the young woman who needed running shoes, a co-worker of Jean's at Vet Connect came in for a tour and told us that their new boss had connections with New Balance and if we needed shoes, he could help. Finally, when I had locked up and was getting into my car, I heard a voice ask if we were closed. were two brand new fans that one of our donors had brought in because he had heard we needed them. A day just doesn't get any better than that!

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Clothes Closet

*"I needed clothes and
you clothed me."*

Matthew 25:38

And, two weeks ago, a woman came in to shop the clothes closet and noticed a beautiful short kimono that had been in our lingerie department for a little while. It had special meaning to the donor and I was hoping for it to find a home with someone to whom it would again be special. Enter this woman who went right to it and told me that previously in her life she collected kimonos and had a number of them which she lost due to circumstances beyond her control. She asked if it were OK to take it and was extremely grateful and excited to have a kimono again.

This kind of synchronicity is truly a God thing and Jean and I and the rest of the volunteers are very blessed to be able to help this happen. We certainly couldn't do it without support from you, our church family, and the community at large who step up to assist these wonderful people in need whenever we call for your help. Saturday is, indeed, a very special day!



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

Bible Study Group

By Larry Jensen

A new Bible Study group began meeting on June 24. The initial focus of the group is the Gospel of Mark. The resource that will guide the study is the book "Say to This Mountain: Mark's Story of Discipleship" by Ched Myers et al. The group will meet weekly at 2:00 on Thursdays at the church. For more information contact Larry Jensen at (402)290-0963 or ljensen15@gmail.com. Please bring a mask.

Thank you, Larry



Community United Methodist Church's VIM

(Volunteer in Mission)

By Don Olsen

We were requested several months ago to consider returning to North Central Washington as a VIM Team to do some what I considered serious repair work on a church parsonage. I reviewed the tasks requested, and didn't feel that our team had the skills that would be required. I notified our point on contact for requests and stated we didn't feel comfortable with the work.

So, she sent back another possible VIM team job. That of putting up insulation and sheetrock in Houston, TX. The Hope Disaster Recovery is looking for teams. They have been doing home repairs from the freeze damage earlier this year. It sounds like if one or a few are interested, Cheryl Regan PNW UMVIM AC will be putting together a team. That being said, they are also booking teams for September, October and November. Perhaps we would want to put a team together during that time.

The Covid protocols are currently in place and they will accommodate our needs. Texas has an open state so all covid precautions would be according to our protocols.

Anyone who is going may need to renew the Ministry Safe Background Check from the PNW UMVIM AC. Sue in the office can help you with that.

I have been giving this some thought, and having over the past year worked on two buildings putting up sheetrock. Personally, I don't think this is something we would want to do. A 4 ft.x 8 ft.by ½ inch sheet weighs just under 60 pounds. The pictures I saw on the news, showed a lot of the sheetrock coming off of the ceilings. Our youthful team members would be holding, securing, taping and sanding overhead sheetrock going up and down ladders for extended periods of time. I know for me these tasks would be painful.

I think that we might consider something a little closer to home such as Habitat Construction right here in our own backyard. I get weekly notices from them. They are currently sheathing house #54 and framing #55. There is finish work and landscaping at the 20th street house as it gets ready to wrap up that site and having another family housed. They are also planning a lady's build scheduled for mid-July, if any of our lady's would be interested. Also I know that we could schedule a CUMC day or two to provide volunteer help.

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



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

FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

2021 year to

06/30/21

date

Income	\$62,279.15	
Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$50,266.15	
Other Income	\$12,013.00	
Expenses	\$62,177.66	
Apportionments	\$8,749.08	
Local Program Ministry	\$7,028.56	
Operation Expenses	\$26,360.93	
Personnel Expenses	\$20,039.09	
Surplus	\$101.49	
Note: Expenses does not include June Payroll		

THAT CHURCH



Volunteering at the Senior Station



Volunteer purchased fans for those in need including Peter's Place



Volunteers create beautiful altar arrangements

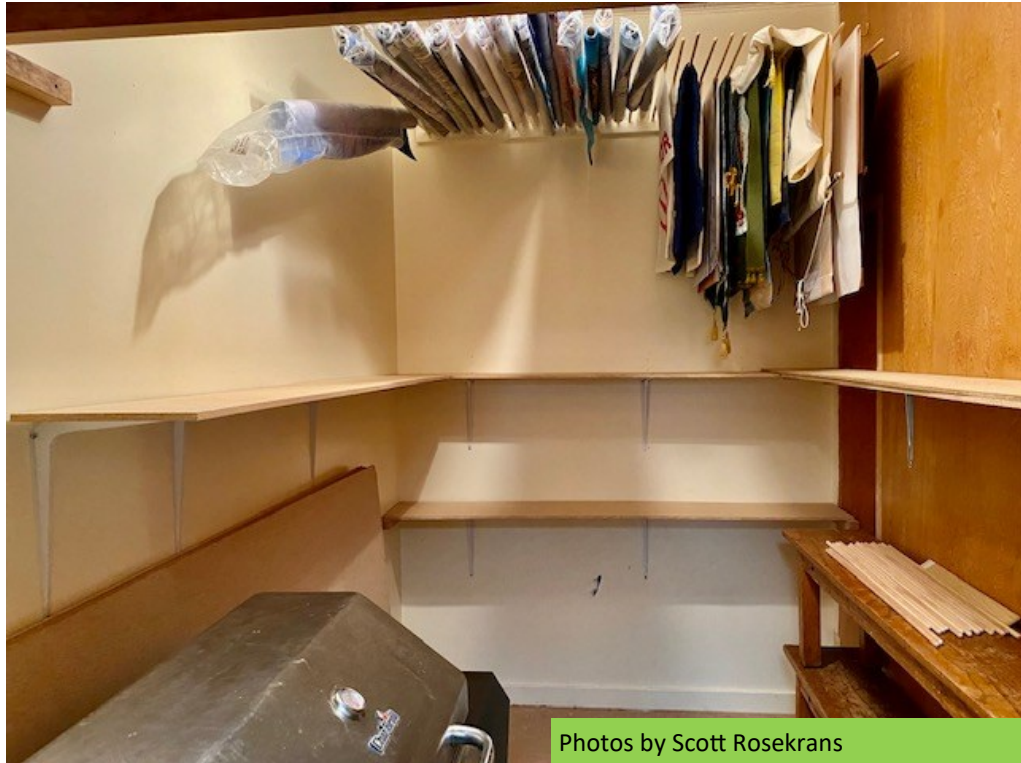


Photos by Scott Rosekrans

New Shelving for the Clothes Closet

By Scott Rosekrans

Many thanks to Don Olsen for the new shelving in the Worship Supply closet and Clothes Closet.



Photos by Scott Rosekrans



Landscaping at Community United Methodist Church

By Scott Rosekrans

The birds, butterflies, and hummingbirds have really been enjoying the landscaping.



Photos by Scott Rosekrans



BIRTHDAYS

1 Orene Udd
 6 Lee Dohse
 14 Bob Linrothe
 17 Fred Miskell
 21 Patty Miller
 24 Billie Fitch
 25 Hank Hazen

ALTAR FLOWERS

4
 11
 18
 25

COMMUNION SERVERS**COUNTERS**

4
 11
 18
 25

GREETERS

4
 11
 18
 25

HOSPITALITY

4
 11
 18
 25

LITURGISTS

4
 11
 18
 25

SUNDAY SCHOOL

4
 11
 18
 25

USHERS

4
 11
 18
 25

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.

**JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS**July 4

2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10
 Ps 48
 2 Cor 12:2-10
 Mark 6:1-13

July 11

2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19
 Ps 24
 Eph 1:3-14
 Mark 6:14-29

July 18

2 Sam 7:1-14a
 Ps 89:20-37
 Eph 2:11-12
 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25

2 Sam 11:1-15
 Ps 14
 Eph 3:14-21
 John 6:1-21

July 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	2	3 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm.
4 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	5 Memory Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom)	6 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches	7 Admin, Financial Meetings 6pm	8 1:00pm Womens A.A. (Library) 2:00pmBible Study, (Library) 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	9 Beginners Praise Hula 11:30 am	10 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
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 1:00pm Womens A.A. (Library) 2:00pm Bible Study (Library) 6:00pm Admin/ Finance Zoom Meeting	16 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Praise Hula Class	17 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm 8:00 Men's Breakfast
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 1:00pm Womens A.A. (Library) 2:00pm Bible Study (Library)	23 Beginners Praise Hula Class 11:30am	24 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
25 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	26	27	28	29	30	31

Serving the Least

Matthew 25:40

April 12th, 2021

By John Blase

His name is Spencer. But everybody calls him “Spence.” He was a state track champion in high school; then he went on to attend a prestigious university on a full academic scholarship. He lives now in one of America’s largest cities and is highly respected in the field of chemical engineering. But if you were to ask Spence his greatest achievements to date, he wouldn’t mention any of those things. He would excitedly tell you about the trips he makes to Nicaragua every few months to check in on the kids and teachers in the tutoring program he helped establish in one of the poorest areas of the country. And he’d tell you how enriched his life has been by serving them.

“The least of these.” It’s a phrase people use in a variety of ways, yet Jesus used it to describe those who, according to the world’s standards, have little or nothing to offer us in return for our service. They are the men and women and children the world often overlooks—if not forgets completely. Yet it’s exactly those people Jesus elevates to such a beautiful status by saying, “Whatever you did [for them], you did for me” ([Matthew 25:40](#)). You don’t have to have a degree from a prestigious university to understand Christ’s meaning: serving “the least” is the same as serving Him. All it really takes is a willing heart.



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