

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



December 2021

RENT FREE

Boxing great Muhammad Ali was once quoted as saying: "The service you do for others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." I heard it referenced this morning on the CBS Morning Show and it resonated with me, so I googled it to learn more. I learned that Ali had first said it in a Time magazine article in 1978 and that you can now get the saying on t-shirts and posters.

Well, it got me thinking about that time we spend here on earth and the fact that there are a lot of people out there not paying rent, and I'm not talking about those who are too poor financially to pay rent. In fact, for what it's worth, many of those people volunteer their time at food banks and other organizations that have direct contact with the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters. We've even had some volunteer on Saturdays in our clothes closet and food pantry as a way of giving back for what they may have received from others at some other point in their lives or may be receiving now. I don't think for a minute that these folks believe they are paying rent for the privilege of living on earth. Their motivation is service to others, others like them because they know what it's like and how much a little human compassion can mean during your darkest of hours.

Anyway, back to Muhammad Ali. What I noticed lacking in his quote was any reference to God. And it's not that Ali didn't believe in God as he converted to Islam in 1964, long before this quote. He realized that even though he proclaimed to be "the greatest" he knew he was not greater than God. As a footnote, Islam is one of the three religious faiths that trace its roots back to Abraham. The other two being Judaism and Christianity.

So right about now you are wondering where I'm going on my mental walk-about and what, if anything, does it have to do with Advent? Good question. For us Christians Advent is our yearly reminder of the Hope we have in Christ, the Love we have in Christ, the Joy we have in Christ, and the Peace we have in Christ. It's not a reminder that there are only so many shopping days left until Christmas, and it's not a reminder that this is the time of the year when we do one or two and the He's coming again, and that we need to be ready. And that's what

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Making Fleece Scarfs



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

Pastor's Pen

the prophet John the Baptist was talking about when he was out in the wilderness proclaiming the coming of the Messiah and baptizing with water. John is telling us to prepare the way for the Lord; to make his paths straight so that one day all humanity will see God's salvation. And John tells us to produce fruit that shows we have changed our hearts and lives. If we don't, he tells us, the ax is at the root of the tree ready to chop it down and throw it into the fire. Well, that really scared his first-century audience and they asked him what it was that they should do to avoid this fiery fate. His answer was simple; whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same. He told the tax collectors to collect no more than they were authorized to collect, and the soldiers to stop cheating and harassing the powerless and to be satisfied with their pay. Essentially, he is saying to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

So, as Followers of the Way of Jesus Christ, we understand that the services we perform in Jesus' name is not our way of paying rent for our time spent here on earth. It's our way of preparing God's creation for the return of his Son in whom we have our hope, in whom we share and practice our love for others, in whom we find joy in all we do in his service, and in whom we find the peace we need to be a calming presence in a world divided by hate, war, famine, and greed. So let your gift of service this year not be a way of just paying rent for your time spent here on earth, but as a gift to others for the gift we received from God the Father over two thousand years ago, a gift that keeps on giving.



United Methodist Women
decorating the church
Christmas tree, bringing
joy to all.

Photos by Scott Rosekrans



Recent Altar Flowers

We the members of CUMC and our on-line attendees greatly appreciate the lovely altar flower arrangements which are provided by our talented members. These beautiful flowers make our worship service a “special time” with the Lord.



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

THE CUMC GENERAL STORE A YEAR LATER WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Submitted by Jean Holtz & Marsha Hamacher

After a year of working in the CUMC General Store, we wanted to share with our Church members and donor community what we have learned in working with and for our neighbors in need of some assistance.



Let us first repeat our “cannots/do nots”: We cannot accept any open or partially used food, condiments or hygiene products. Yes, we have found bugs in repackaged foods. We cannot accept “Beyond Expiration” foods. All clothes, linens and bedding must be washed and in good condition. No stains, rips, broken zippers, please! Again, we ask that you respect the dignity of our shoppers being able to wear/use clean and well-maintained clothing/goods. Please remember that many of our clients tell us that they once had homes, cars, jobs, families, and for some reason far beyond their control, lost some or all of these things. They never expected to be in the position in which they find themselves now and, in a lot of cases, are trying hard to get back on their feet again. We are working to support them in doing so.

1. Many persons donate mac & cheese boxes but the mixture also needs milk and butter. Consider adding shelf/boxed milk & small bottles of olive oil with the boxes.
2. We get a lot of Top Ramen & Noodles, a favorite go-to-donation. But would you enjoy it for every meal? Please don't resort to “they should be grateful for what they get”. Think how you would feel if people repeatedly said that to or about you.
3. Boxed and shelf milk is always a good donation.
4. People who are frequently on the move or live in small places like tiny homes, cars, vans or tents cannot carry or store large cans or boxes of anything. Keep portions small and easy to carry or store in tight places. Consider donating simple, light weight can openers.
5. Salt, pepper, sugar are often requested. Consider buying these in box of single serving packets.
6. Tuna & crackers always fill the stomach but, again, let's vary it with other canned meats.
We get requests for corned beef hash, Vienna Sausages, stews, chilis, Spam, etc.
7. Hamburger Helper does not help much if it has no meat to put in it.
8. When buying peanut butter & jelly think about also getting crackers to put it on.
9. We have been getting more requests for laundry soap and dishwashing detergent.
Just because you see someone with dirty clothes in our store, don't assume they want to wear dirty clothes. They simply cannot afford to buy detergent.
10. Women will cry over finding feminine hygiene products on our shelves.
11. Everyone cries over finding toilet paper on our shelves. Give up some of your hoard.
Hygiene products like toilet paper & feminine products are not carried at the Food Banks.
12. Stove top stuffing is not really a nourishing meal.
13. Many of our shoppers are on medical diets. Consider getting Ensure, Boost, Premier protein drinks. Consider getting low sugar, low sodium & low fat foods. We also have persons who are vegetarians, vegan or have lactose & gluten intolerant allergies.
14. The best things for clothing donations are simple, washable, long wearing items.
15. Please, do not bring us Dry Clean Only items – our clients do not have the money to keep these cleaned.
16. Fleece items are not chosen very often, just occasionally for a layering piece. Much preferred are cotton and cotton/polyester items.
17. Clothing items that have printing on them – slogans, sayings, specific organizations – are not popular. Occasionally, someone will like a graphic of an animal or painting and the like, but words of any kind are

take pride in how they look and have specific likes and disliked. It is not up to us to tell them what they should and shouldn't wear.

18. Jeans are very popular, especially because they wear so well. Our clients are not into the "slashed jeans" style, however, so we do not stock jeans with holes and slashes.
19. Substantial bathrobes for men and women are appreciated by some of the people at Peter's Place because of having to travel from their houses to the restroom/shower trailer and back again. Robes also make another layer for wrapping up in a car or tent.
20. Flimsy clothing items for women and dressy, formal, or office-type clothing for men and women are of little use to our clients. We do keep some "office appropriate interview clothing" for our clients, but our stock of these is complete.

Pride, dignity and respect guides what we give out at the CUMC General Store.

There is so much more we want to learn about how best to meet the needs of all our neighbors. We look forward to another and another and another year of such growth.

Let us leave you with this true quote from one of our shoppers who tried on new shirt & pants. "I don't look like a homeless person for once."



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

Former prosecutor running church resource room

Port Hadlock pastor helps provide food, tents and clothing

By Diane Urbani de la Paz

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 1:30am | **NEWS** **JEFFERSON COUNTY**



Volunteers A.J. Lavery, left, and Marsha Hamacher organize the winter outfits at the Community United Methodist Church's clothing room. The room is open for free shopping on Saturdays. (Diane Urbani de la Paz/Peninsula Daily News)

PORT HADLOCK — The meditation room morphed into a food pantry. And the old sanctuary, a few steps away, is an emporium of winter clothes, tents, blankets, housewares, quilts and hand-assembled hygiene kits.

This is the Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) resource center, run by county prosecutor-turned-pastor Scott Rosekrans and a flock of volunteers.

Together they open the food-clothing-camping bank for business every Saturday, moving armloads of free merchandise out the door.

"We have such fun. We know the clients pretty well; we know what they need," said Marsha Hamacher, one of the workers who has organized a small mountain of donated and purchased clothing, from jeans to Christmas sweaters.

Across the hall in the snug food pantry are soups, tuna, pasta, personal care supplies and tiny stoves made by Jean Holtz, another volunteer. On the low-fat shelf: Spam Lite for those who need it.

The whole place is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at CUMC, 130 Church Lane, where Rosekrans is in his sixth year. He and his congregation started the food pantry-clothing bank in January as the nearby Peter's Place tiny-home village was opening its doors.

Residents there, some of them elderly, needed basic supplies, as did people staying in Bayside Housing & Services' transitional units at the Old Alcohol Plant.

"We're starting to see more single women with children staying at Bayside," Rosekrans said.

He said he recently met a mother who needed clothes for her 13-month-old, "who's growing like a weed."

Another young woman, moving out of transitional housing into her own apartment, "had nothing," Rosekrans said.

She shopped the Methodist emporium for dishes and other kitchenware.

"We have some really nice clothes," Rosekrans added, noting he and his volunteers strive to make the clothing bank as much like a shop as possible.

In a larger room at the church are sleeping bags, inflatable mattresses, tents and heaters. People living outside or in their cars come in for those; on Monday afternoon, Rosekrans said, a young couple picked up some food and a foam mattress for their station wagon.

The clients who visit the church's three-room resource center aren't necessarily members of the Methodist congregation, although they might pop in to a Sunday service. Either way, the pastor asks no questions about religious affiliation. Rosekrans does inquire about what people need so he can refer them to agencies such as the Olympic Community Action Programs (OlyCAP).

All of this began, he said, in the "Jesus cup," a coffee cup Rosekrans uses to collect spare change. Soon after arrival, he'd invite anyone who came around to drop some coins in. Next thing he knew, people were pressing bills into the cup and writing checks. One visit by three men from a nearby church left him with \$177.

These days, Rosekrans and his wife Teresa are contributing the funds to the Quilcene Food Bank, where she hosts the senior table, and buying new winter coats for their clothing bank. They've responded lately to requests

for food, clothing, camping gear and hygiene supplies not just on Saturday but during the week, too.

Rosekrans encourages people in need to contact the church at cumc@olympus.net or at 360-385-1579.

Those with clothing, tents, sleeping bags and such to give are asked to describe their goods in an email to cumc.donate@gmail.com, Rosekrans said. Donors should not leave items outside the church.

“I didn’t go to seminary,” the pastor said.

Instead, much of his education came from serving as Jefferson County prosecuting attorney. Defeated in 2014 in his bid for a second term, Rosekrans decided to change careers. He took an 18-month course that would qualify him as a lay pastor, filled in at Trinity United Methodist Church in Port Townsend — and took the job with Port Hadlock’s Methodist congregation in July 2016.

“As a former elected prosecutor, I know the Tri-Area is ground zero for homelessness, unemployment, alcoholism, domestic abuse, drug abuse, and nothing’s being done,” Rosekrans said. “Everything is Port Townsend. The Tri-Area is overlooked.”

Not on his watch. The pastor ministers to his neighbors from the pulpit, from the church’s Facebook page, from the food pantry and the clothing bank. He invites other local church leaders to consider starting their own resource rooms.

Try something simple, Rosekrans advises. Your church probably has an extra room you can use to store blankets for those who’ll need them this winter.

“Our clients are such good, good people,” said Hamacher as she folded pants and shirts on Monday.

For example, one woman she knows well comes in for clothes but won’t take much.

“She’ll never take more than she can use. She’ll say, ‘I don’t need that right now. Somebody else will use it.’”

Jefferson County senior reporter Diane Urbani de la Paz can be reached at 360-417-3509 or urbanidelapaz@peninsuladailynews.com.



Pastor Scott Rosekrans of the Community United Methodist Church shows off one of the tiny stoves made by volunteer Jean Holtz. People without access to a kitchen can use the camp stoves to heat meals from the church’s food pantry. (Diane Urbani de la Paz/Peninsula Daily News)

PENINSULA
Daily News

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The miracle of the Incarnation - God made flesh - can heal and transform us. For if we can open our saddened hearts to the "One who comes with healing in His wings" (Malachi 4:2), then God's own life and love and hope can offer us the profound healing miracle of Christmas: God-with-us, Emmanuel!

Please join us for this special Facebook Live service at 7:00 PM, December 21 for Scripture readings, special reflections, beautiful music and candle-lighting.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined" Isaiah 9: 2



Out door CUMC Nativity Scene

You can drive by the church to see it.



Tai Chi. If you are interested in taking Tai Chi or just want to check it out to see if it is for you we're going to give it a try beginning on Wednesday, January 5, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary/Narthex . The class is kindly taught by Siochajn. We are not having the class during the holiday season. Again the classes resume on January 5, 2022 at 2:00pm



ADVENT ALTAR



Sung-Ling Hsu and Pam Robert's perform for UMW program.



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	\$ 500.00
June:	OlyCAP	\$500.00
July:	ECHHO	\$360.00
August	Food Bank	\$634.50
September	OlyCAP	\$300.00
October	ECHHO	\$500.00
November	Food Bank	\$500.00
December	OlyCAP	\$

FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

2021 Year to Date

12/08/21

Income

\$118,608.63

Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$94,429.63
Other Income	\$24,179.00

Expenses

\$108,053.21

Apportionments	\$14,381.80
Local Program Ministry	\$11,099.85
Operating Expenses	\$38,332.33
Personnel Expenses	\$44,239.23

Difference

\$10,555.42

BIRTHDAYS	HOSPITALITY	OUR PRAYERS
2 Larry Sanderson	5 12 19 26	* For the homeless, the hungry and the unemployed.
	7	* For Peace on Earth!
ALTAR FLOWERS	LITURGISTS	* For wisdom for our leaders.
5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	* For employment for people struggling to find meaningful work.
COMMUNION SERVERS	SUNDAY SCHOOL	* For Healing and provisions for those who are suffering with COVID-19.
COUNTERS	5 12 19 26	* For protection of the medical front- line workers who are caring for patients with COVID -19 and variants.
GREETERS	USHERS	
5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	



December LECTIONARY READINGS

Dec 5

Mal 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Phil 1:3-11
Lukie 3:1-6

Dec 12

Zeph 3:14-20
Isa 12:2-6
Phil 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Dec 19

Mic 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Heb 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Dec 26

1 Sam 2:18-20,26
Ps 148
Col 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

December 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Siochain 2 pm Tai Chi class (Narthex)	2 12:30pm Women's A.A. (Library)	3	4 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm.
5 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship PJT Community Choir 2- 3pm (Sanctuary)	6 Alzheimer Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom)	7 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches	8 Siochain 2 pm Tai Chi class (Narthex) 6:30pm Admin/ Finance Council Meeting	9 12:30pm Women's A.A. (Library) 1:30pm Bible Study, (Library)	10	11 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
12 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship PJT Community Choir 2- 3pm (Sanctuary)	13	14 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	15	16 12:30pm Wom- en's A.A. (Library) 1:30pm Bible Study (Library) 7-8pm AI-Anon Meeting (Library)	17	18 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
19 UMCOR Offering 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	20	21 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	22	23 1:30pm Women's A.A. (Library) 2:00pm Bible Study (Library) 7pm AI-Anon	24	25 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
26 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	27	28 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	29	30	31	

December 1st, 2021

We Need Our Church

Hebrews 10:19–25By John Blase

I grew up the firstborn son of a Southern Baptist preacher. Every Sunday the expectation was clear: I was to be in church. Possible exceptions? Maybe if I had a significant fever. But the truth is, I absolutely loved going, and even went a few times feverish. But the world has changed, and the numbers for regular church attendance are not what they used to be. Of course, the quick question is *why*? The answers are many and varied. Author Kathleen Norris counters those answers with a response she received from a pastor to the question “Why do we go to church?” He said, “We go to church for other people. Because someone may need you there.”

Now by no means is that the only reason we go to church, but his response does resonate with the heartbeat of the writer to the Hebrews. He urged the believers to persevere in the faith, and to achieve that goal he stressed “not giving up meeting together.” Why? Because something vital would be missed in our absence – “encouraging one another” (v. 25). We need that mutual encouragement to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds” (v. 24). Brothers and sisters, keep meeting together, because someone may need you there. And the corresponding truth is that you may need them as well.



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