

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church



April 2022

He is Risen Indeed

Earlier this morning a Facebook memory from two years ago popped up on my iPhone. It was me sitting in front of my fireplace at home doing a remote Palm Sunday message for Facebook Live. We've certainly come a long way since starting out with my iPhone 6 in my living room to where we are now doing both a Facebook Live and Zoom Live broadcast simultaneously from our sanctuary.

Like so many churches we were excited about Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter and were stunned when we got word from the Conference to close our doors until further notice. It kind of reminded me of the Easter story in a way. The people were so excited about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and flocked to hear him preach and teach during the following week of Passover celebrations only to be falsely accused, put on trial, humiliated, and crucified. What a shock to the system that must have been to those who had been following Jesus and clinging to the hope he offered, and suddenly he was gone. But as we know now, he rose from the dead in three days and the rest is history.

As I was preparing for the Palm Sunday service, I spent some time reflecting upon what it meant for Jesus to bear his cross. We've all heard people describe a burden they are experiencing as "their cross to bear" as if it is some sort of unpleasant task that has been thrust upon them. A burden I am sure they would rather have someone else bear. And for sure, the cross Jesus bore was no pleasant experience, but he knew that, and out of love, he bore it willingly for us. He didn't do it grudgingly or resentfully. He did it out of love for us, his brothers and sisters, God's beloved children. He knew the future of humankind was at stake and there was no question as to what he was being called to do and why.

So that got me thinking as to the cross we have borne for the last two years, the cross of the COVID-19 virus and pandemic. I've marveled at how some of the churches not only in our community, but around the country, have reacted to the

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen	1-2
Video Team	2
Vision Impaired	3-4
Ringin' In the New!	4
Parsonage Remodeling	5-6
Piano	7
Spring Has Sprung	7
Mission of the Month	8
Finance Report	8
April birthdays,, sched-	9
Wesley	10
April Calendar	11
Monthly Devotional	12



(continued on page 2)

the pandemic restrictions. Many grudgingly and resentfully closed their doors and complained about the oppressive governmental intrusion on their freedom of religion. Others to one degree or another did what they could to comply hoping for the day when we could all get back to normal. And some churches saw the cross of COVID as an opportunity to do church differently reaching an even wider audience and being a presence for God during a time when millions were getting sick and dying a slow and suffocating death.

And that, I believe, is what we did. How we reacted these past two years to being shutdown to in-person worship was the cross we were to bear. And I'm happy to say that we did not bear our cross with resentment or grudgingly. We saw it as an opportunity for continued service to God's people during a time of great distress, an opportunity to let God's light shine through us into the fear, uncertainty, and darkness. We found ways to continue making our bean soup mix for the food banks to help feed those who were hungry. We continued to make fire starters and fleece blankets for those who needed to feel the warmth of God's love and keep them from the cold. Then God presented us with an opportunity to use our land (His property) to establish a tiny home village for some of the homeless in our community letting them know that someone saw them and valued their existence. And at the height of the pandemic several of our volunteers stepped forward to open up our clothes closet and food pantry on Saturday mornings for those in need to come in and get the basic necessities of life and to be greeted by a friendly face and caring fellow human being. And we didn't forget about our homebound brothers and sisters. Through the process of trial and error (many trials and many errors) we have upgraded our livestreaming capacity to where people can watch us every Sunday morning from home or wherever they may be. We have even attracted a viewing audience of people who previously did not attend our church, but they do now and consider us a part of their family.

So now I reflect back and thank God for allowing us to bear this cross in His name and I am grateful for the confidence that He had in us to do it with a cheerful and loving heart. And it's because of the love and guidance of the Holy Spirit in all we do that people praise God for us and the work we do in Jesus' name and know that He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!

Faithfully, Scott

Lifting our hearts to our valuable Sunday Morning Video Team!



Photos by Scott Rosekrans



A.J. Laverty and Lynn Marlow

Vision Impaired

By Scott Rosekrans

I was born with really good eyesight but as I've gotten older my vision isn't as good as it used to be. Maybe it was all those years I worked night shift straining to see what was going on in the darkness. Maybe it was studying my law school courses by the dome light of my patrol car. Maybe spending countless hours researching case law and writing briefs. Maybe the many hours spent at my desk preparing sermons on my computer for the past 250 plus weeks has something to do with my need for new glasses to help keep the way I see sharp and in focus. One thing's for sure, how we see things shapes how we approach the challenges of life and how we live in society.



And how we see other people is something that's been on my mind lately. I recently preached a sermon where the Apostle Paul was talking about how we see people and in it he said in his letter to the church in Corinth: *So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now.* Well Duh! I felt like I was in that television commercial promoting travel hearing Captain Obvious state the obvious. You see, even as Christians we often fail to see others as Jesus saw them. We see and judge people by hu-

man standards. I mean that's the way we're wired. That's how we measure people. Sometimes we see the measurement applied in a positive manner as when some athlete breaks a long-standing record. I saw that this morning when a young female soccer star was compared to basketball great Michael Jordan. And then we have the other end of the spectrum where we denigrate someone by comparing them to someone evil or lumping them in with a class of people we consider as inferior or undesirable. Throw social media into the mix and the level of human toxicity boils over. People love to point the finger of blame and shame when things go wrong, especially if it diverts the focus or attention away from them. Nobody wants to be in that spotlight and chances are that person already feels bad enough and doesn't need to be reminded of their shortcomings or present circumstances.

For us Christians, how we look at people could be our Achilles heel, our weak spot, where we are most vulnerable to attacks. There is no shortage of stories about hypocritical Christians engaging in behavior that would make Jesus cringe. We need to constantly remind ourselves of how Jesus saw and reacted to people. In all my readings of the four Gospels I can't recall a single incident where Jesus maliciously pointed out someone's flaws or faults. When he saw someone who needed help or someone who came to him expecting a miracle, he didn't turn them away, he didn't ask them how they got in such a pitiful state, or if he would see them in synagogue the coming Saturday if he helped them. He looked upon them with compassion and with an eye towards helping them in any way he could, no questions asked, and no strings attached. We'll never know what ever became of the people Jesus helped or healed. Did they go on to greatness? Did they live productive lives? Did they reconcile a bad relationship with their family? Did they start going to church again? Were they able to turn their lives around? We like to think they lived happily ever after thanks to the intervention of the Son of God.

Continued on page 4

And that's one of the challenges to being a church that genuinely tries to walk the talk of Jesus Christ. We have to constantly remind ourselves to see the people who come to us as Jesus saw them. And I'll be the first one to admit that it is difficult to maintain that perspective in the face of all we see going on in just our community let alone the rest of the country or the world. It can be overwhelming but if we follow Jesus' lead, we just take them as they come and do what we can. We have to remember that we are the somebodies who do something and not the somebodies who do everything. We lead by the example of Jesus Christ hoping that others may see what we are doing in His name, become inspired, see those needing help as Jesus saw them, and do what they can. We can't let our vision become impaired by all the darkness we see all around us. We are charged with carrying the light out into the world to see what it is that God wants them to see.

And that's the Easter story. Jesus came to live among us to show us a better way of living and loving. By his example we opened our eyes showing us how to see people as he sees them which helps us to recognize those opportunities when we can really do something that will make a difference in someone's life even if it is for a moment as they experience the love of Jesus Christ through the touch of another. And the Easter story is also a lesson in sacrifice. If we're truly going to make a difference, if we're really going to do the work and the will of the Father, we're going to have to give of ourselves, we're going to have to put ourselves out there taking up our own cross as we follow Christ and see others as we would want to be seen, not by human standards.



Ring in the New...

By Marsha Hamacher



The new handbells, that is! Community United Methodist Church is the most joyful recipient of a two-octave set of Schulmerich handbells! The bells were passed on to us from a retired pastor from the Panama Canal Zone and we recently had them completely refurbished by Marlene and Wes Anderson and made ready for action. They are gorgeous and now we need people to play them. That means you! If you want to be independent (you ring certain notes that belong only to you!) and still be an integral part of a group of musicians making the most beautiful music (everyone ringing their own notes at the right time makes a bell choir), come join us in the sanctuary at **3pm this Friday, April 8**, for an organizational meeting so we can get the fun started. Being able to read music is a definite plus – experience even playing clarinet in 8th grade band 50 years ago helps! We can help your “remembering”, as my son used to call it, and get you up to speed. This is going to be a whole lot of fun and I look forward to seeing everyone that would like to be a ringer on Friday afternoon!



Parsonage Project in Action

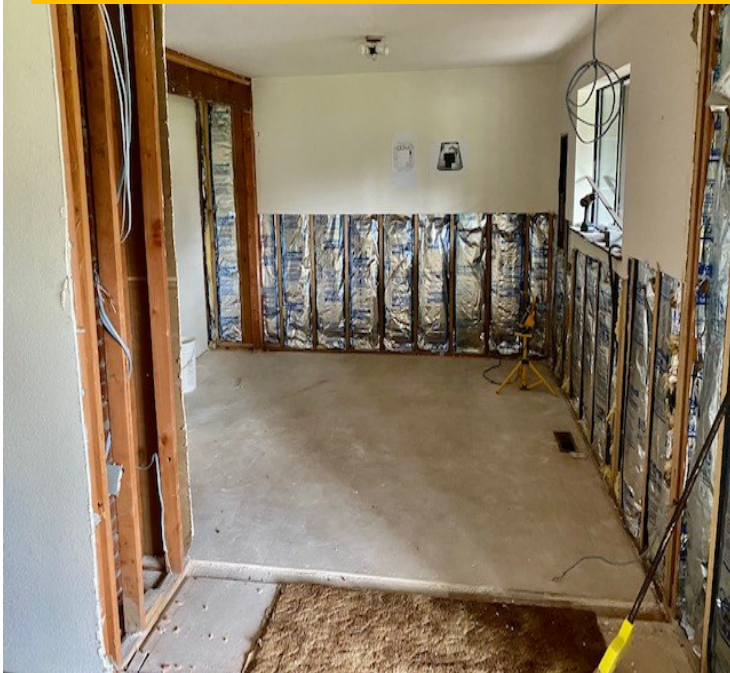
Lunchbreak during remodel



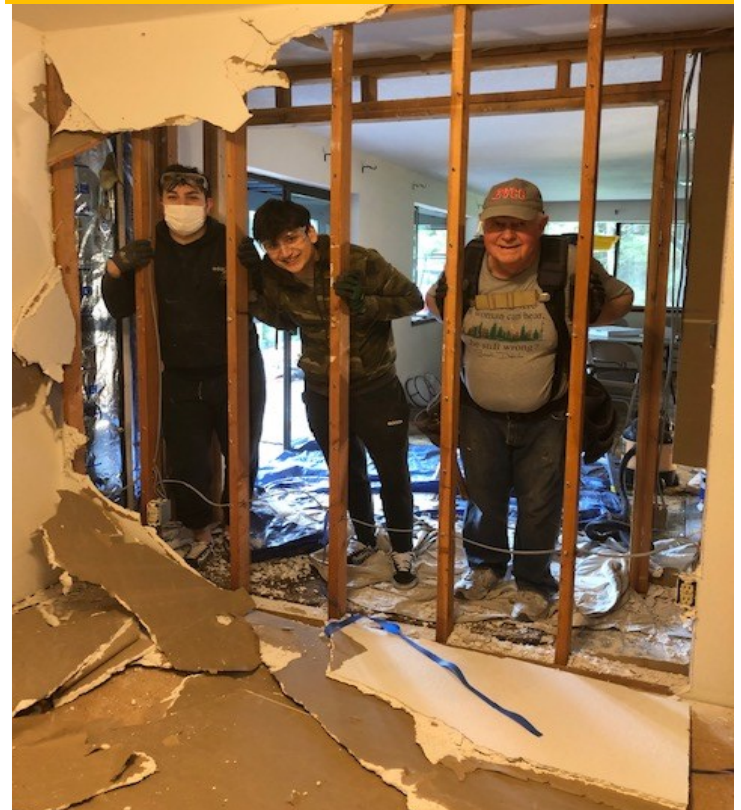
John, Don and Laurel

Photos by Scott Rosekrans

New Space for Kitchen



Team Olsen!



Laurel's grandsons and Don

Continued on page 6

Demo Day!

What day is it? It's demo day! Opening up a wall to convert a bedroom into a kitchen in the lower level of the parsonage.



Photos by Scott Rosekrans



Don, Laurel, Laurel grandsons

The Old Piano



Great old piano looking for a new home. Will throw in the black keys for free.



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

**SPRING
HAS
SPRUNG!!**



Local

MISSION
of the
MONTH

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	\$ 500.00
February	Food Bank	\$ 500.00
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	\$

2022

FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

2022 March Year to Date

03/31/22

Income

\$27,555.83

Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$24,805.50
Other Income	\$2,750.33

Expenses

\$34,286.36

Apportionments	\$4,317.54
Local Program Ministry	\$4,077.91
Operating Expenses	\$13,181.02
Personnel Expenses	\$12,709.89

Difference

-\$6,730.53

BIRTHDAYS	HOSPITALITY	OUR PRAYERS
1 Betty Prentice	3 10 17 24	* 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 and variants.
ALTAR FLOWERS	LITURGISTS	
3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24	
COMMUNION SERVERS	SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	3 10 17 24	
COUNTERS	USHERS	
3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24	
GREETERS		
3 10 17 24		



April LECTIONARY READINGS

April 3

Isa 43: 16-21
Ps 126
Phil 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 10

Luke 19:28-40
Ps 118:1-2, 19-29

April 17

Acts 10:34-43
Ps 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Cor 15:19-26
John 20:1-18

April 24

Acts 5:27-32
Ps 150
Rev 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

JOHN WESLEY'S MANIFESTO



1. Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people
2. Help everyone to have a job
3. Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage
4. Offer the best possible education
5. Help everyone to feel they can make a difference
6. Promote tolerance
7. Promote equal treatment for women
8. Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism
9. End all forms of slavery
10. Avoid getting into wars
11. Share the love of God with everyone
12. Care for the environment

April 2022

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

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

March 4th, 2022

Unshakable FaithMatthew 6:20By Anne Cetas

Kevin walked into the nursing facility after his dad passed away to pick up his belongings. The staff handed him two small boxes. He said he realized that day that it really didn't take an abundance of possessions to be happy.

His dad, Larry, had been carefree and always ready with a smile and an encouraging word for others. The reason for his happiness was another "possession" that didn't fit into a box: an unshakable faith in his Redeemer, Jesus.

Jesus urges us to "store up . . . treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20). He didn't say we couldn't own a home or buy a car or save for the future or have numerous possessions. But He urged us to examine the focus of our hearts. What was Larry's heart set on? On loving God by loving others. He would wander up and down the halls where he lived, greeting and encouraging those he met. If someone was in tears, he was there with a comforting word or listening ear or heartfelt prayer. His mind was focused on living for God's honor and the good of others.

We might want to ask ourselves if we could be happy with far fewer things that clutter and distract us from the more important matters of loving God and others. "Where [our] treasure is, there [our] heart will be also" (v. 21). What we value is reflected in how we live.

**Community United Methodist Church**

Open Hearts Open Doors Open Minds

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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