

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of  
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



May 2022

## A Woman's Place

Just before Easter I saw one of those quaint memes on Facebook that said something to the effect that if you wanted a historically correct Easter Sunday service you should let the women in your church do it. I got a chuckle out of it and also realized just how true the meme was. If you don't believe me, go back and read the different accounts given by the gospel writers. While they may have differed in a few minor details the common denominator was the role played by women as this drama played out. This year we relied upon the Gospel of Luke for our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday scripture readings, specifically chapters 23 and 24. Luke tells us that as Jesus was being led to the cross for his crucifixion a huge crowd had gathered *including women who were mourning and wailing for him*. Luke says that Jesus turned to the women telling them not to cry for him but to cry for themselves and their children.



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

We're told that the women were present at the crucifixion when Luke says: *And everyone who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance observing these things*. We're also told that after the crucifixion the women watched Joseph of Arimathea take the body of Christ down and place him in an unused tomb. Luke tells us they went away to prepare the fragrant spices and oils needed for a proper burial but they first observed the Sabbath in keeping with the commandment. And early on Sunday morning it was the women who went to the tomb to prepare the body of Jesus for burial.

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It was there that the women were reminded by the two men at the tomb of what Jesus had told them when he foretold his impending death in Galilee. And it was the women who first delivered the news that the Messiah had arisen.



Well that got me to thinking about the prominent role that women play in our churches today which, in the Methodist Church, includes serving as pastors, district superintendents, and bishops. And Community United Methodist Church is no different with a rich history of women serving in every capacity for decades. I am especially appreciative of the many roles and responsibilities taken on by the women in our little church and can say without reservation that we wouldn't be where we are today without the many women who gladly took up their crosses to selflessly serve in any way they could. As we emerge from the darkness of COVID and continue to look for ways in which we can make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world I know that whatever it is that we do, it will be done with the grace and humility of the women in our church because our church is a woman's place. Thank you ladies.

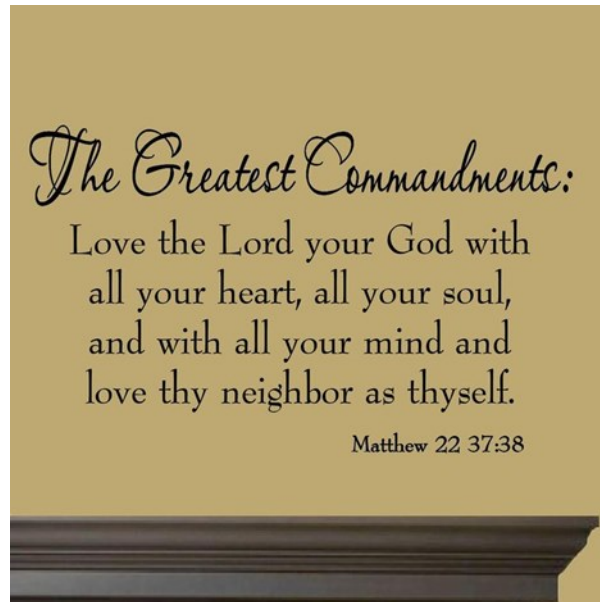
Faithfully,

Scott



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

## What if Loving our Neighbors Could Change the World?



### What is the Good Neighbor Experiment?



The Good Neighbor Experiment (GNE) is a transformative learning process that prepares congregations with the practical tools they need to forge more meaningful relationships and to create sustainable impact in their community.

It is part of the good neighboring movement, a new initiative for congregations to partner with other churches in the Puget Sound District of the United Methodist Church Conference to help transform our way of thinking about being a good neighbor.



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Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) is looking for four committed volunteers to learn about how we can grow in being a good neighbor in our community.

These four volunteers will learn about building relationships, asset-based community development, and much more. If you are interested, please send me an email at [Lori.obe@q.com](mailto:Lori.obe@q.com) and I can forward additional details to you. This is a great opportunity for our faithful congregation to become more purposeful about our ministry in the community. Please consider participating in this opportunity for personal and spiritual growth.

Some of the benefits to help CUMC succeed includes:

- ◆ Three in person workshops designed for you to learn, connect, and grown in your get to know your neighbors.
- ◆ Have access to extensive media library that includes branding kits, a workshop series, and a 24-week small group curriculum and one on one coaching.
- ◆ Our own Super Intendent is willing to meet with you by zoom to answer any questions you may have.

In completing the Good Neighbor Experiment, we, CUMC, will experience a culture shift and gain practical tools to get to know your actual, literal neighbors in the following ways:

- ◆ experience a shift in emphasis from programs to **relationship**
- ◆ experience a shift in focus from scarcity to **abundance**
- ◆ experience a shift from inauthenticity to **joy and discernment**
- ◆ learn a dynamic set of tools founded in **asset-based community development**
- ◆ gain access to **resources** such as 24 weeks of small group curriculum, a worship series planning guide, 4 weeks of youth and adult Sunday School curriculum, marketing tools, and more
- ◆ receive continued connection (post-GNE) to The Neighboring Movement and other churches across the country through **our alumni network**

You can access additional information by visiting the website at:  
<https://neighboringmovement.org/good-neighbor-experiment/>

There is also a wonderful video that you can provide a good overview at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSYIdJluD7E&t=83s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSyIdJluD7E&t=83s>

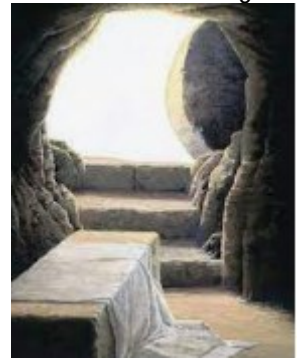


Jefferson County Interfaith Action Coalition (JIAC) is a group of members and clergy of Jefferson County churches working together on justice issues. The focus of JIAC has been the Winter Welcoming Center located at the Pope Marine Center in Port Townsend which provides heat and personal warmth in the mornings through the cold winter months for those who need it. Plans include community gardens, further efforts to help the unsheltered, and other upcoming endeavors. JIAC's actions and plans align perfectly with CUMC's established missions. We need to be involved.

Detail of future monthly meetings will be announced when available. All are invited. For further information contact Larry Jensen at (402)290-0963 or [lpjensen15@gmail.com](mailto:lpjensen15@gmail.com).

## Proof of Life

By Scott Rosekrans



Our scripture reading for this past Easter Sunday came from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 1-12. What resonated with me was the question the two men asked the women after they had entered the tomb looking for Jesus. They asked: “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” Well that really got me thinking about where we look for Jesus or, more importantly, where do others look for Jesus? I mean one of the reasons that church attendance and membership has been declining for decades is that people have not, for one reason or another, found Jesus when they’ve come to church. It’s as if the church they went to was dead on the inside. It’s almost as if you could hear the two men from Easter morning asking why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here. I think that’s a question that haunts many pastors and church councils. It begs the question: How do we convince spiritual seekers that they can find the living Christ in our church?

In my opinion, it’s a matter of relevancy. Over the past six years I’ve read many books with catchy titles such as: *The Necessary Nine* (Things Effective Pastors Do Differently), *Portraits of a Pastor* (The 9 Essential Roles of a Church Leader), *Preaching to Teach* (Inspire People to Think and Act), *Get Their Name* (Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships), *Thrive* (Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations), *Rural Church Turnaround* (Real Life Experiences of Rural Pastors and Lay-Leaders), and that’s just half of them. The one common theme I’ve been able to deduce from reading all these books is that people don’t think we’re relevant. This point was made abundantly clear by William B. Lawrence in his book entitled: *A Methodist Requiem* (Words of Hope and Resurrection for the Church). At the outset of his book, he makes the statement that the United Methodist Church has a diminished footprint in major public issues affecting society. That’s code for not being relevant. He says: “There are virtually no big questions for which the denomination speaks with a unified voice offering vital answers. There are nearly no topics on which the denomination has a recognizable, unequivocal position. There is no sign that society looks to the United Methodist Church for solutions to problems.” Ouch, that hurts. But it’s painfully true. We might as well be dead.

And for me, I do think it’s a matter of relevancy. It was six years ago, sometime after Easter, that the District Superintendent introduced me to the Staff Parish Relations Committee of Community United Methodist Church as their new pastor. Once the committee got over the initial shock, one of the questions they asked me was what I thought my ministry for the church might be? At the time I hadn’t even read Lawrence’s book, but I responded that as their former elected prosecutor I knew that the Tri-Area was ground zero for a lot of problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, unemployment, housing, and homelessness, and that we were in a good position to do something about it.



So, if I hadn’t yet read any of the above referenced books where did I go for guidance? The correct answer is Jesus. One of my favorite passages in the New Testament is found in the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew’s Gospel. In it, Jesus talks about the judgment of the nations where when he comes again in his judgment all the nations will be gathered together in front of him and he will separate them from one another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side, but the goats he will put on his left. Spoiler alert! You don’t want to be a goat. This passage is more commonly known as the Least of These passage where he tells his listeners that when he was thirsty, he was given something to drink, and

when he was hungry he was fed. When he was a stranger, he was welcomed and when he needed clothing, he was given something to wear. When he was sick, he was taken care of and when he was in prison, he had people come see him. We're told that those on the right who were righteous asked him when it was that they did these things for him to which Jesus replied: "I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brother and sisters of mine, you have done it for me." And then he flips it over on the goats, those on his left, telling them that when they saw someone in need, they ignored them and, as far as he is concerned, they were ignoring him, and he wouldn't forget it at the final judgment.



And I think we get it. We get that the easiest and most effective way to show people the living Christ is through the way we live as a people and as a church. We see them as Jesus sees them and treat them as Jesus would want them treated. Jesus was telling the goats, those on his left, that they weren't relevant and were pretty much dead to him if they didn't change their ways. And knowing and seeing what it means to the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters to be treated with love and compassion, without judgment, is what makes us feel alive and relevant as a church. Sure, you can do all sorts of wonderful things by belonging to service organization and we are not competing with what they do. While they may meet some of the same needs, our goal is to show the lost and searching where to find the living God among the dead of the world. So, if you're looking for proof of life, proof that Jesus has arisen and is alive and living, you'll most likely find it in a church that strives to be relevant, that looks for opportunities to continue what Jesus began two thousand years ago. So look for the living among the living and not among the dead.





United  
Women  
in Faith

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

formerly United Methodist Women)

will meet **Thursday, May 5th, 2022**

At the April UMW meeting, the women felt they are ready to get back to our tradition of having the May meeting at a local restaurant. So, we will be meeting on:

**Thursday, May 5, at 11:00 a.m.** at the:

**Highway Twenty Roadhouse, 2152 W. Sims Way in Port Townsend**

Easy to locate – on the left side of the highway shortly after passing through the first roundabout going into Port Townsend. There is parking in the rear of the building.

Join us for a time of fellowship, fun and, of course, lunch. Devotions will be given by Siochain Deva. It's May - you might want to share a brief story about your mom or about being a mom.

**NOTE the change in time: we'll meet at 11:00 a.m.**

# Parsonage Remodel Update

by

John Sweet, Trustee Secretary

The parsonage remodel project is progressing nicely. The upper level has been updated with new paint, electrical switches and plates, door and cabinet knobs, a new (donated) cooktop, a refrigerator to match and new flooring in the kitchen and hall. A tenant moved in on May 1 paying rent of \$1600 per month.

The lower-level remodel is projected to be finished on or about June 1. This involves converting one of the bedrooms into a kitchen. New cabinetry, appliances and floor covering have been ordered and some items received. Plumbing and electrical work are scheduled.

The project is coming in under budget. The only unknown has to do with a required septic tank inspection.

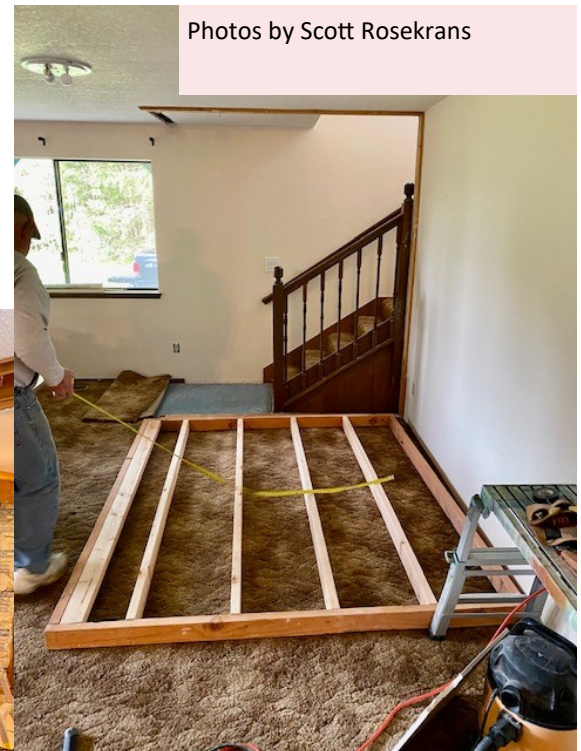
The original loan amount of \$35,000 is expected to be closer to \$25,000 depending on the cost of the septic tank inspection. We are grateful for several donations including a dishwasher, cooktop, and other miscellaneous items.

Several members of the trustees have undertaken the property management function by preparing all rental documents precluding the need to hire a property management firm and the cost associated with that.

The following people have been busy donating their time and talent to this project: Don Olson, who is the lead carpenter; Laurel Ankeny and her two grandsons; Ted Ross; Pastor Scott and Theresa Rosekrans; Jean Holtz; Lynne Marlow; and John Sweet.



Ted and Don tackle the stove!



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

Framing the wall for the new door!



The wall is up! Don works hard.



## ALTAR FLOWERS

So Beautiful!

Photos by Scott Rosekrans



Palm Sunday



Easter

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	\$ 500.00
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
4 Kendra Hermanson	1	<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 and variants.</li> </ul>
5 Lori Witheridge	8	
9 Laurel Ankeny	15	
20 Michael Swartout	22	
21 Cal White	29	
24 Kathy Anderson		
25 Judy Olsen		

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	2	3	4	5 1:30pm –3pm Bible Study, (Library) UMW 11:00 at Roadhouse Res- taurant 7-8pm Al-Anon	6	7 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm.
8 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship PJT Community Choir 2- 3pm (Sanctuary) MOTHERS DAY	9 Alzheimer Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom)  Rain Shadow 6:30pm to 9:30pm	10 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	11	12 1:30pm –3pm Study, (Library) 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	13 Bell Choir 3:00 pm	14 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
15 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship PJT Community Choir 2- 3pm (Sanctuary)	16	17 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	18 6:30pm Admin/ Finance Council Meeting	19 ) 1:30pm –3pm e Bible Study (Library) 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	20	21 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
22 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	23	24 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	25	26 1:30pm –3pm Bible Study (Library) 7pm Al-Anon Meeting	27	28 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
29 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	30	31 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)				

April 5th, 2022

## A Good Work

[Philippians 1:6](#)By [kenneth petersen](#)

As a teenager, Charles Spurgeon wrestled with God. He'd grown up going to church, but what was preached seemed bland and meaningless. It was a struggle for him to believe in God, and Charles, in his own words, "rebelled and revolted." One night a fierce snowstorm forced the sixteen-year-old Spurgeon to seek shelter in a tiny Methodist church. The pastor's sermon seemed directed at him personally. In that moment, God won the wrestling match, and Charles gave his heart to Jesus.

Spurgeon later wrote, "Long before I began with Christ, He began with me." In fact, our life with God doesn't begin with the moment of salvation. The psalmist notes that God "created [our] inmost being," knitting us together in our mother's womb ([Psalm 139:13](#)). The apostle Paul writes, "Even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace" ([Galatians 1:15](#) NLT). And God doesn't stop working with us when we're saved: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion" ([Philippians 1:6](#)).

We're all works-in-progress in the hands of a loving God. He leads us through our rebellious wrestling and into His warm embrace. But His purpose with us then is only beginning. "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him" ([Philippians 2:13](#) NLT). Rest assured, we're His good work regardless of how old we are or what stage of life we're in.



### 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](mailto:cumc@olympus.net)

Church Office Hours:

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

Email: [pastorscottrosekrans@gmail.com](mailto:pastorscottrosekrans@gmail.com)

Pastor's Office Hours:

10 am - 3 pm, Monday &amp; Wednesday

10 am - 6 pm, Tuesday