

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



July 2022

Character Building

As I write this article, I am finishing up my sixth year here at Community United Methodist Church. On the one hand, July of 2016 seems like a long time ago, but on the other hand it seems, to me anyway, to have gone pretty quickly. It's gone quickly I think because we've kept busy. We haven't sat around in a huddle wondering what was going to happen next. Instead, we focused on making it happen, and boy howdy have things happened in the life of our church.



I recently preached a sermon entitled: "Why Not Me, Lord?" based upon the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Rome that was going through a rough time, wondering if maintaining this Christian way of living was worth the effort, worth the worry and hardship. Paul tells them to keep the faith,

the faith that we have because of our relationship with Jesus Christ which gives us access to God. He tells them to take pride in their problems because those problems produce endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. That got me to thinking about us and when I was introduced to the Staff Parrish Relations Committee



six years ago as the new pastor. Kind of hard to take pride in that kind of a problem when you think about it, going from a fulltime ordained senior pastor to a parttime certified lay minister who had, up to that point, spent most of his time warming a pew. To their credit, nobody expressed any doubts or reservations. They were too polite.

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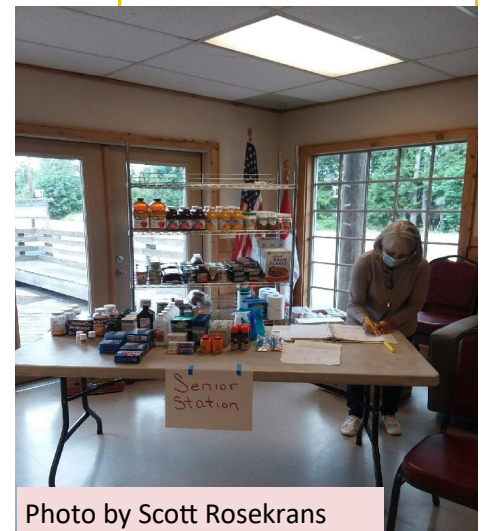


Photo by Scott Rosekrans

After they told me all about their wonderful church and what it meant to them, they asked me a question I hadn't anticipated. They asked me what I thought my mission would be for their church. I told them that as their former Prosecuting Attorney I knew that the Tri-Area was ground zero for homelessness, unemployment, drug abuse, and many other livability problems and that we were in the right place to do something about it. Definitely sounded like something a politician would say. I asked them to give me six months to get my feet on the ground and I would come back with a proposal. Well, that got me through Christmas and in January of 2017 I told the Administrative Council that I had looked at the books and that we needed to start giving away some of God's money. That got their attention and they asked exactly what I had in mind. I told them I wanted to start small with \$100.00 a month on a rotating basis with OlyCAP, ECHHO, and the Tri-Area Food Bank as recipients. They even agreed to move \$6,000.00 into missions should anything pop up that needed our immediate attention. The congregation rose to the occasion and started contributing to our monthly missions along with donating their spare change to the Jesus Cup which was already up and running.



And look at us now. We have endured some pretty lean times and about the time we were really gaining momentum we were blessed with the COVID-19 pandemic. When I say blessed, it is not tongue in cheek. The COVID shutdown was another trouble we had to face as a church. Our doors were closed, and we were told to stay home. But we found a way to continue having services on Sunday mornings which has expanded our reach to others who, for whatever reason, weren't attending church anywhere. And, knowing people in our community still needed us, we opened up our mission rooms to meet the needs of the last, the least, and the lost. As a result we are now players in the housing movement in Jefferson County and are a voice for those who do not have a voice, or at least a voice that will be listened to.

I say all this to say that we did not run from our troubles. We faced them head on knowing that the Holy Spirit was right there with us guiding us as we worked to do God's will. We have been creative and have endured some hardships and challenges, but we have come to welcome them. Our endurance during these trying times have built up our Christian character as we work to be the somebodies who do something in Jesus' name. And this character has produced within us a hope that what we are doing exhibits to others what it means to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, and as Christ has loved us.

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Photos by Scott Rosekrans





But the Spirit is not done with us. We started small and slowly and as our endurance increased and our character strengthened the work given us by the Spirit got bigger and more challenging. The Spirit knows we are up to the task and just this week has floated a couple of interesting ideas by me that are worthy of our effort, as if I could say no. I am really looking forward to year seven and truly appreciate your continued prayers and support as we continue our work in being a part of the solution, the solution that brings us and others closer to God.

Faithfully,

Scott



Gutter Update

Don Olsen putting up a much needed rain gutter.



Heart Health

By John Sweet

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. 3 John 1:2

Heart disease is the number one killer worldwide, according to the American Heart Association, and stroke ranks second. And even when those events do not result in death, they cause disability and diminish quality of life.

According to The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) physical activity can help maintain a healthy weight and lower your blood pressure, blood cholesterol, and blood sugar levels. For adults, the Surgeon General recommends 2 hours and 30 minutes of moderate-intensive exercise, like brisk walking or other aerobic activity every week.

Target heart rate is an important concept to understand when working on aerobic or cardiovascular fitness. Target heart rate is the beats per minute (bpm) your heart needs to be working to get maximum benefit from your work out. You can determine your bpm by taking your pulse at the wrist.

Age	Target HR Zone Beats Per Min	Ave Max HR Beats Per Min
55	83-140	165
60	80-136	160
65	78-132	155
70	75-128	150
75	73-123	145



According to the CDC your maximum heart rate is about 220 minus your age. You may want to consider having your doctor determine your appropriate “Target Heart Rate.”

Another important health concern is stroke. According to University of Washington strokes affect around 800,000 Americans every year.

Time is of the essence when it comes to treating stroke so it’s important to understand the signs of stroke. An easy way to remember the warning signs is BE FAST.

Balance and coordination can be suddenly affected.

Eyes can experience blurry or double vision or vision loss.

The **Face** might droop or appear uneven.

There may be **Arm** or leg weakness of one side of the body.

Speech can become difficult or hard to understand.

A **Terrible headache** may seem to come out of nowhere.

If you or someone else is exhibiting these signs call 911 immediately.



What's Happening to the United Methodist Church

By Larry Jensen

You may have seen recent news reports regarding a split of the United Methodist Church. If you haven't been following this issue closely, you may be wondering what it is all about. This piece is intended to explain the current situation and how we got here.

First, a bit of background. In 1968 the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches merged to form The United Methodist Church (UMC). The new church, as both predecessor churches, was organized to be connectional. That is, a United Methodist congregation does not stand alone. It is part of a larger Church. The main organizational units are the Annual Conference which includes all churches in a given geographical area and the General Conference.

Each Annual Conference is presided over by a bishop who acts as the spiritual and administrative leader of the conference. A local church does not own their church building or the land it sits on. The Conference owns the property. A local church does not choose their Pastor. The Pastor is appointed by the Bishop and a Pastor may be removed from a local church by the Bishop.

The UMC as a whole does not have a single leader. Ongoing affairs of the UMC are managed by the Council of Bishops. Policy and rules are set by the General Conference. This body, which meets every four years (except for the pandemic year 2020), is made up of elected delegates from every Annual Conference. The rules and guidelines adopted by the General Conference are maintained in the Book of Discipline, which is thus the governing document of the UMC.

Despite the word "United" in our Church's name, it is not and never has been truly united. Among our members, there have always been theological differences ranging from ultra-conservative evangelical to progressive and even radical. These differences derive from and correspond to differences in how the Bible is interpreted. Some, the progressives, see it as a sacred document written by God-inspired humans to be studied for guidance in how to live a Christian life, despite its ambiguities, complexities, and contradictions. Others, the conservatives, see the Bible as a sacred document containing God's own words which must be interpreted literally and without question. These faith differences tend to translate into opposing political views on many "hot-button" issues such as abortion, the death penalty, gun control, support for social welfare programs, and so forth.

Many local churches have some members on one side of this divide and some on the other, but often one side or the other will predominate in a congregation. Within a conference, urban and suburban churches are more likely to be progressive or liberal while rural churches are more likely to be evangelical or conservative though there are plenty of exceptions. Southern conferences are generally conservative and northern churches are more progressive.

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For many years, divisive issues have been debated at Annual Conferences and General Conferences, but, for the most part, when rules and policies were adopted, compromises were worked out which were at least acceptable to both sides. Then, in the 60s and 70s positions began to harden. Questions regarding gender identity and homosexuality became a focus of the conservative side. Those who interpreted the Bible literally pointed to the few passages condemning same-sex sexual activity and labeled it a sin or an abomination. An extremely important event was the action of the 1972 General Conference inserting language into the Book of Discipline stating that “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching”, that same sex weddings cannot be performed by our pastors or in our churches, and forbidding ordination of lesbian or gay persons.

Some voices were raised in protest at the time, but back then most people never gave homosexuality any thought. The vast majority of gays and lesbians were closeted. In most circles, the subject was not discussed and this was the case in most United Methodist congregations.

Over the years, the dissenters continued to speak out. The issue of inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons has been raised at every General Conference since 1972 and increasingly at Annual Conferences. The argument of those favoring inclusion has essentially been that God’s love is unconditional and all encompassing and so the church must be fully open to all. The argument of those favoring the condemnatory and restrictive language added to the Book of Discipline in 1972 has been that the Bible contains language condemning homosexual activity and so the church must act accordingly.

Early on, the conservative position definitely held sway. Attempts by progressives to remove the offending language were soundly defeated. As time passed, however, positions began to shift toward the progressive side. Motions calling for inclusion were still defeated but by decreasing margins.

Beginning in the late 1990s and continuing thereafter, some UM pastors openly performed same-sex unions in defiance of church law. Also, there were numerous cases in which UM pastors came out as gay or lesbian, often with the support of their congregations. These acts of ecclesial disobedience helped awaken progressive United Methodists to the issue of full inclusion.

At the same time, acceptance of LGBTQ+ persons in US society as a whole was changing dramatically. More and more gays and lesbians came out of the closet. Employment discrimination declined. Same-sex marriage became legal in Massachusetts in 2004, in five more states by 2010, and nationally in 2015. There are still many anti-homosexual individuals in the population, but it is not uncommon for gay and lesbian candidates to be elected to public office indicating that they are now in the minority. By the 2010s mainline protestant churches other than the UMC all allowed same-sex marriage and allowed gay and lesbian clergy to be ordained.

During the time period being discussed, the composition of the UMC was changing radically. Membership in the US declined from 11 million in 1968 to 6.2 million in 2020 while overseas membership grew to about 7 million. Thus the majority of members who would be voting at the upcoming 2020 General Conference would come from overseas. These non-US members tend to be strongly conservative and strongly opposed to non-traditional sexual orientations and gender identities.

As the time for the 2020 General Conference approached, progressives could see that there was no chance that the language in the Book of Discipline that they found offensive would be removed. Many progressives found this to be unacceptable and talk of leaving the UMC and forming a new liberal “Methodist” church increased.

On the conservative side, the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA), formed in 2016, grew stronger and more militant as 2020 approached. They found the presence of progressives or anyone who did not accept conservative beliefs to be unacceptable.

It appeared that the two sides were on a collision course and that the crash would occur at the 2020 General Conference. Yet, there were those who hoped that some sort of amicable separation plan might be developed. Then the COVID pandemic hit and the conference was postponed and eventually cancelled. The next possible date for a General Conference would be 2024.

In early 2021, the WCA began planning to form a new, separate conservative church to be called the Global Methodist Church (GMC) and announced that the launch date for the new church would be May 1, 2022. So, even though the General Conference has not adopted a plan to separate or split, a de facto split has occurred. The GMC exists to provide a home for disaffected conservative United Methodists.

The current Book of Discipline provides a means for local churches to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. This process requires approval by a 2/3 vote of the members of a congregation and approval by the Annual Conference. With conference season now in process it is to be expected that there will soon be a number of local churches leaving the UMC and joining the GMC. As of mid-June a few conferences have reported on the number of churches disaffiliating from the UMC:

<u>Conference</u>	<u># Churches</u>
Florida	107
North Georgia	70
Arkansas	35
Great Plains (KS & NE)	12

We are entering a critical period for Methodism. How many individuals and churches will leave the UMC? How many will join the GMC? What will happen with all the agencies and boards of the UMC? The former UMW and UMM have already changed their names. What other changes might these organizations see? Will enough conservatives remain in the UMC to continue past battles? What effect will the split have on membership of each church? Will the decline continue? If overseas conferences, particularly those from Africa, leave the UMC, will the UMC continue to support them financially? What do you think of all this?



Kathi VanCamp and Lori Oberlander are excited to take the next step in the Good Neighbor Experiment: Keep a lookout for additional details about what is happening will be announced in the Sunday Bulletin with times, dates, and activities.



Nominating Committee

By Lori Oberlander

Would you like to help decide the future of the church?

The Nominating Committee is where you want to be because it is one of the most important committees that the church operates because it is the first step in deciding who will lead our congregation.

The Nominating Committee summary is as follows, but there are additional details in the Book of Discipline:

Nominating Committee is elected annually by the Charge Conference of the Church to serve for three-year terms.

The function of the Committee is to:

Identify, develop, deploy, evaluate, and monitor Christian spiritual leadership for the local congregation.
Engage in biblical and theological reflections on the mission of the church, the primary task of the church and the ministries of the church.

Seek and identify the skills and talents of the congregation and make recommendations to the Ad Council for the annual leadership of the church.

If you would like additional information about the function and activities of the Nominating Committee, please call me at 360 620-0809 or send me an email at Lori.obe@Q.com and I can answer any questions and provide you with a document that provides the details from the Book of Discipline.



Parsonage

John Sweet working on installing the parsonage dryer vent.

Photos by Scott Rosekrans





Happy Shoe-ly!!!

By Marsha Hamacher



It's time for the General Store monthly report again...can you believe how fast time passes? Serving our clients is so enjoyable that we can't wait for Saturday to come around again and that makes time go even faster! And we've had several new helpers this month who have discovered exactly why we love it so much. Thanks very much for lending a hand!

The Clothes Closet sends a really big thank you to our wonderful contributors who brought us armfuls of Jeans for June, some leggings for the ladies who love them, and a bunch of other items, too. We received very nice used jeans in great shape and brand new ones, both much appreciated. (I guess we should send Costco a thank you note for offering jeans at a great price, also!)

Now it's almost July and you know what that means...Shoe-ly!!! We have some summer shoes left from last year, but I know we will need more. Those lovely boots that we have been giving to our shoppers thanks to our donors are becoming too warm and our clients need some shoes for warmer weather. The sizes we are especially in need of are: Men's – 11 ½ medium, Women's – 9, 9 ½, 10, 10 ½, and 11. For men, the style of shoe most desired is a summer, low hiker or athletic shoe. For women, it's summer casual – athletic shoes and canvas or other fabric slip ons. These are specific needs, but we will be happy to accept gently used, clean shoes or new ones in any size. Thanks so much for participating in Shoe-ly!

Just so you know how important these shoes are to our clients, we wanted to tell you about two shoppers we had a few weeks ago during a heavy Saturday rainstorm. Both gentlemen came in separately, but in the same shape – feet in worn out athletic shoes that were absolutely soaked. The first man lived outside and needed several things, but shoes were obviously one of the most important. We outfitted him with boots and boot socks and he put them on immediately and asked if he could leave his old shoes and socks in our wastebasket. He kept mentioning how wonderful it was to have warm, dry feet. The second man carefully wrapped his wet shoes and socks in one of our plastic bags to take with him, but also put his new boots and socks on right away and kept thanking us. Maybe it's because a number of us are moms and grandmas, but there is nothing like making someone warm and dry and cozy! When we are able to outfit someone who really needs it from head to toe, we feel especially successful and grateful. I might add here that we can always use heavy boot socks, too. Thanks to Socktober, we have lots of dress and athletic socks, but what we could really use because they go so fast is some heavier socks for hiking and inside our taller boots. Found some recently at WalMart in a six pack – affordable and oh, so comfy!

We continue to pack up our winter wear and put out summer things and are still trying to organize it all, so we continue to ask you to please let us know if you have something to donate BEFORE you bring it in. Email our special address at cumc.donate@gmail.com to find out if we can use your items. We will be sure to let you know what we can use through Sunday announcements, this newsletter, and Scott's weekly email.

In our Food, Household Items & Camping Areas we could use jams/jellies, protein bars, regular size cans of fruit and soup, individual coffee packets, cranberry juice, twin sheets, towels, fans for summer and tents.

And always know that we are grateful for every single one of you and all you do for us and for our neighbors.

The General Store team – Jean H, Jean S, Sue, Marsha, Debbie, Michele and all of our helpers both regular and drop-in.

ALTAR FLOWERS



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

2022

FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

2022 May Year to Date

05/31/22

Income

\$59,476.53

Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$53,521.20
Other Income	\$6,270.20

Expenses

\$58,902.70

Apportionments	\$7,195.90
Local Program Ministry	\$6,229.47
Operating Expenses	\$23,273.21
Personnel Expenses	\$22,204.20

Difference

\$573.83

BIRTHDAYS

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

3 Stephanie Buehler
 10
 17 Liz Hazen
 24
 31

COMMUNION SERVERS**COUNTERS**

3 Lori O./Kathi V.
 10 _____/Connie R.
 17 Marsha H./Diane Johnson
 24
 31

GREETERS

3
 10
 17
 24
 31

HOSPITALITY

3
 10
 17
 24
 31

LITURGISTS

3
 10
 17
 24
 31

SUNDAY SCHOOL

3
 10
 17
 24
 31

USHERS

3
 10
 17
 24
 31

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 and variants.

**July LECTIONARY READINGS**July 3

2 Kings 5:1-14
 Ps 30
 Gal 6:(1-6) 7-16
 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10

Amos 7:7-17
 Ps 82
 Col 1:1-14
 Luke 10:25-37

July 17

Amos 8:1-12
 Ps 52 or 82
 Col 1:15-28
 Luke 10:38-42

July 24

Hos 1:2-10
 Ps 85
 Col 2:6-15
 Luke 10:1-13

July 31

Hos 11:1-11
 Ps 107:1-9,43
 Col 3:1-11
 Luke 12:13-21

Being the Somebodies Who Do Something In Jesus' Name

July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm.
3 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	4 Alzheimer Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom)	5	6	7 12pm-1pm Women's AA 1:30pm -3pm Bible Study, (Library) 4pm Bell Choir (sanctuary) 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting	8	9 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
10 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	11	12	13 6:30pm Admin/ Finance Council Zoom Meeting	14 12pm-1pm Women's AA 1:30pm -3pm e Bible Study (Library) 4pm Bell Choir (sanctuary) 7-8pm Al-Anon	15	16 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
17 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship FATHERS'S DAY	18	19	20 Deadline for articles for August Newsletter	21 12pm-1pm Women's AA 1:30pm -3pm Bible Study, (Library) 4pm Bell Choir (sanctuary) 7-8pm Al-Anon	22	23 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
24 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	25	26	27	28 12pm-1pm Women's AA 1:30-3pm Bible Study (Lib) 4pm Bell Choir (sanctuary) 7-8p Al-non (Lib)	29	30 Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm
31 10:00am Worship						

June 2nd, 2022

Set-Apart

[Matthew 11:29](#)By [Bill Crowder](#)

In November 1742, a riot broke out in Staffordshire, England, to protest against the gospel message **Charles Wesley** was preaching. It seems Charles and his brother John were changing some longstanding church traditions, and that was too much for many of the townsfolk.

When John Wesley heard about the riot, he hurried to Staffordshire to help his brother. Soon an unruly crowd surrounded the place where John was staying. Courageously, he met face to face with their leaders, speaking with them so serenely that one by one their anger was assuaged.

John Wesley's gentle and quiet spirit calmed a potentially savage mob. But it was not a gentleness that occurred naturally in his own heart. Rather, it was the heart of the Savior whom Wesley followed so closely. Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" ([Matthew 11:29](#)). This yoke of gentleness becomes the true power behind the apostle Paul's challenge to us, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" ([Ephesians 4:2](#)).

In our humanness, such patience is impossible for us. But by the fruit of the Spirit in us, the gentleness of the heart of Christ can set us apart and equip us to face a hostile world. When we do, we fulfill Paul's words, "Let your gentleness be evident to all" ([Philippians 4:5](#)).



Community United Methodist Church

Being the Somebodies Who Do Something in Jesus' Name

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