CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



But for the Grace of God



You've probably heard it said countless times and even you yourself may have said it when observing another person in a sorry state or predicament. "There but for the grace of God go I." What you are basically saying is that you are really no different than that poor soul who has been beset by some sort of tragedy or unfortunate set of circumstances and that it is only by God's grace that it isn't you. To me such a statement begs the question: So, what are you going to do about it? Shrug your shoulders and thank your lucky stars? Mutter to yourself that somebody ought to do something. Maybe hold them in your thoughts and prayers. Prayer is good and as followers of the way of Jesus Christ we care called to pray and to do more.

August 2022

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If you've wondered that you are in good company. In 1786 John Wesley, the founder of our Methodist denomination, expressed a similar sentiment. He said: "I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power." And here we are 236 years later at the brink of fulfilling Wesley's prophesy.

I believe that when Wesley wrote this, he had in the back of his mind an image of the Pharisees and religious leaders who were in control during Jesus' three-year ministry. They had "the form of religion without the power." Now, don't get me wrong, they had power, the power of control and maintaining their status quo, but they had lost the power or the will to do anything about it. And I think that was the point Jesus was making in his sermon when he told he parable of separating the sheep from the goats. Jesus addressed the crowd and said: "when I was thirsty you gave me something to drink, when I was hungry you gave me something to eat, when I was naked you gave me something to wear, when I was sick you took care of me, when I was a stranger you welcomed me, and when I was in prison you came and visited me." The "sheep" asked when it was that they did these things for Jesus, and he told them that when they did it for the least of his brothers and sisters, they had done it for him. When he spoke these words, he wasn't addressing the Pharisees or the religious leaders of the day, he was addressing those in the crowd, everyday ordinary people, folks like you and me.

And that's the point Jesus is making. The people he spoke to didn't observe the thirsty, hungry, naked, sick, stranger, or person in prison and say: "there but for the grace of God go I." They took it upon themselves to do something. They didn't assume it was up to the government to do something or that the religious leaders or hierarchy would step in and take action to right the wrong. They were living the gospel before anyone realized there was a gospel. And this is what drove John Wesley, a desire to put the words of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into action as he saw that his church, the Anglican Church of England, wasn't doing anything to address the ills of society that troubled him so much. They had the form of religion without the power or desire to do anything about it.

And that's the fear I have for "organized" religion today. For decades we have been in a downward decline becoming that dead sect Wesley was talking about. Churches and denominations that have the form of religion without the power, the power being that of the Holy Spirit to motivate and lead us in establishing God's kingdom here on earth. (I think you'd agree that the kingdom isn't looking so good and is showing signs of neglect.) Like John Wesley and Jesus Christ, we can't sit idly by and wait for the powers that be to do something, because they won't if it will disturb their status quo. We need to step up and take the initiative living the gospel in everything we do as a church continuing our mission field engagement or one day someone will look at our shuttered doors and say: There but for the grace of God

go I." Faithfully, Scott

Attention Walmart Shoppers

By Scott Rosekrans



If you attended our worship service on July 17th or were watching online, you've already heard my story about the woman Teresa and I encountered at Walmart, but I think it bears repeating for those who haven't heard it.

Teresa and I had gone to Poulsbo to do some shopping for the Quilcene Senior Table and pick up some of my medication. As we were passing by the ladies' wear section, I spotted some lightweight cotton tops that had been marked down to a dollar. Knowing that these particular clothing items were in great demand in our clothes closet I suggested to Teresa that we buy ten of them. As we were picking out various colors and sizes a lady rolled up on one of those electric shopping carts and remarked at what a good deal it was. I explained that they weren't for me, that our church operated a clothes closet, and many of the women who lived in the tiny home village on our property appreciated our stock of summer clothing. She immediately said that she would like to buy some and offered to give us ten dollars towards the purchase. We thanked her for her generosity as she pulled a twenty-dollar bill from her purse. Teresa offered to give her a ten she had but the lady declined and said to get twenty dollars' worth. About that time, I noticed that there were also some cotton summer dresses marked down to a dollar so I told her we would get ten tops and ten dresses. She was so happy to help out.

As we were picking out the tops and dresses, she began to tell us her story. She said that she had gone in for some surgery and had an adverse reaction to the medication and, as a result, suffered from uncontrollable seizures that would come on without warning. As she was telling us how much she missed church and wanted to get back into the mission field she began to shake, and it was obvious a seizure was coming on. She asked that I pray for her so right there in the middle of Walmart I took her hand and began praying. I prayed that God would comfort her and grant her peace and that if it was his will, he would restore her health. I thanked God for her generous heart and her engagement in the mission field through her generous donation to our church. As we were in prayer her shaking began to lessen and when it ceased, she thanked me. She said she wished God would do something about these seizures. I reminded her of what God said when the Apostle Paul asked three times to have his thorn removed: "My grace is sufficient." I told her that we would continue to pray for her and her health but to remember that God chose not to remove Paul's thorn and that Paul was still able to do amazing things in his service. As we parted, she said she would pray for our church and for all we were doing for those in need.

Teresa and I marveled at what had happened and felt blessed to have been in the right place at the right time to experience the work of the Holy Spirit. I told the congregation that it wasn't anything I had done, and it wasn't me the Spirit moved but that I was glad to pick up on what was happening and take it from there. Yeah, I know twenty dollars' worth of Walmart clothing may not seem like a big deal, but the new clothes will brighten someone's day, but more importantly it was truly empowering to see the joy Cheryl experienced as she gave from her abundance to participate in a mission effort focused on the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters. We thank God for the Cheryls of this world and that God will keep them safe and comfort them in their distress and afflictions as they do what they can to make a difference in the lives of people who need to feel God's love and mercy.

APARTMENT NEEDED

by Larry Jensen

Afghan evacuees Ali and Storya Mamond along with daughter Nihal need a place to live. They had to leave the apartment where they had been living since their arrival in February and are now in a one room apartment at Bayside. If you know of a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment, house, or ADU with affordable rent, please contact Larry Jensen, (402)290-0963, <a href="mailto:legengles



Have you ever wondered how the church operates?

Have you ever wondered about how the church is organized, who makes decisions about the missions we undertake, what we do during the service, and who decides how we spend our money?

That is the purpose of the Administrative Council otherwise know as the Ad Council. The Ad Council includes leaders form key committees such as: Treasurer, Finance, Staff-Parish, Trustees, Worship, Ministries, and Nominating.

The primary role of the Ad Council is:

- Planning and implementing a program to nurture, outreach and witness for people and families both inside and outside the church.
- Providing effective pastoral and lay leadership.
- Provide financial support of the physical facilities and the legal obligations of the church.
- Utilize appropriate relationships and resources of the district and annual conference.
- Providing for proper creation, maintenance and disposition of documentary records and other important documentation of the church.
- Seek inclusiveness in all aspects of life.

The Ad Council is responsible for organizing and preparing for the Annual Charge Conference, identifying, and developing Lay Leaders, ensuring the safety of volunteers, congregants, and children, and providing training as needed.

If you enjoy getting a solid understanding of the inner workings of the church, planning, and organizing, consider serving on the Ad Council Board. For more information contact Lori Oberlander or Pastor Scott.

We Have a Bell Choir!





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AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE
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June 22, 2022

Mr. Scott W. Rosekrans PO Box 1165 Port Hadlock, WA 98339-1165

Dear Pastor Rosekrans,

Thank you for contacting me regarding gun violence in our nation. Like you, I am devastated by the gun deaths, mass shootings, and lives lost as a result of tragic shootings in our nation. I am grateful for the Port Hadlock Community United Methodist Church's leadership on this issue, and I appreciate you sharing your perspective as a former police officer and prosecutor.

Over the last few weeks, we have grappled with the aftermath of far too many senseless, terrible tragedies – in Buffalo, New York; Laguna Woods, California; Uvalde, Texas; and Tulsa, Oklahoma – that have rocked our nation to its core. As your representative and as a dad – my heart is heavy for the families and communities that have been devastated by these tragedies. In grocery stores, places of worship, schools, and hospitals, it is unacceptable that safety is not guaranteed. I know that beyond offering prayers, what our nation needs is action. And I'm determined to see that happen.

I strongly believe that we simply cannot accept such tragedies as the norm. None of us should ever get used to seeing images of kids funneling out of schools with their hands raised after a shooting in their school. We should never grow accustomed to hearing a parent speak about having to plan their child's funeral. We shouldn't have to fear for the safety of those we love when we drop them off at school or go the mall or church.

Time and again, while legislation has passed the House, it's been difficult to see meaningful and responsible reforms to our nation's gun laws blocked in the Senate. I recognize that in a time marked by partisanship and division, this issue is perhaps one of the most divisive, but there are common-sense steps we can take right now to prevent gun violence.

For example, we know that the vast majority of Americans, including gun owners, have embraced the notion that weapons don't belong in the hands of convicted felons, domestic abusers, and fugitives from justice. In fact, new polling showed that 88% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales.



Community United Methodist Church

A United Methodist Congregation Serving East Jefferson County

130 Church Lane P.O. Box 1165 Port Hadlock, WA 98339 360-385-1579 cumc@olympus.net Scott Rosekrans, Pastor

5/25/22

Hon. Derek Kilmer 1429 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Re:

Mourn, Pray, Repeat

Dear Representative Kilmer

I have no doubt that you are as saddened as my congregation over the recent slaughter of innocents in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas, and other countless communities all around the country.

Our United Methodist Book of Discipline, under the section on Political Responsibility, tells us that: The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust. That being said, I am writing to say that our congregation supports whole heartedly commonsense gun control legislation, and we urge you to do all that is within your power to depoliticize this issue and work with your Republican colleagues to come up legislation designed to keep us safe as we go about our daily lives whether that be going to the grocery store or sending our children to school.

As an aside, I can tell you that, as a former Houston Police Officer and an elected prosecutor in both Texas and Washington, these AR-15 style assault weapons have no place in a civilized society and are designed for one purpose and one purpose only, to inflict as much human carnage as possible in the shortest amount of time.

Thank you for your time, attention and cooperation in this matter. We pray for you and the difficult job you have and that you and your colleagues will put the better interests of the people you serve ahead of political interest and gain.

Singerely,

COPY

cott W. Rosekrans

Web Site: www.HadlockChurch.com

That's why last year, I co-sponsored and voted for the Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8) and the Enhanced Background Checks Act (H.R.1446). The Bipartisan Background Checks Act would require a background check for all firearm sales and the Enhanced Background Checks Act would address what's known as the "Charleston loophole" by ensuring that a background check is fully completed before the firearm is transferred to the purchaser. This loophole received national attention following the tragic 2015 mass shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina that resulted in the murders of nine innocent people.

Beyond these efforts, I know there is even more we can and should do. That is why I cosponsored and supported the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act when it passed the House in early June. This legislation (known as a "red flag law") would allow law enforcement to prevent those who pose a threat to themselves or those around them from obtaining a firearm. A similar law has been passed in our state – and others – and the data suggest that such laws can save lives.

I will keep pushing for progress in the House. That's why I joined my colleagues in sending a letter to House Leadership urging for the consideration of additional gun violence prevention legislation to keep our communities safe. To that end, I'm pleased that the House has passed the Protecting Our Kids Act (H.R.7910), a bill that I have co-sponsored. Among other things, this bill would raise the age to purchase a semiautomatic centerfire rifle from 18 to 21 years old, make it illegal to import, sell, manufacture, transfer or possess a large-capacity magazine (with some exceptions), and establish requirements to regulate the storage of firearms on residential premises. These would be valuable steps toward protecting our public safety.

I have also co-sponsored the Assault Weapons Ban Act, which would ban the manufacture and sale of semiautomatic assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Like you, I do not think that weapons that were created in hopes of producing maximum carnage on a field of battle belong in our schools or in our communities.

In addition, in the House, as we begin this year's appropriations process, I will be pushing for funding for the STOP School Violence Act program. In 2018, I worked in collaboration with the parents of Sandy Hook Elementary to introduce and pass the STOP School Violence Act, which provides resources to schools to implement proven methods of combating gun violence. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I've secured ongoing funding for this law over the last two appropriations cycles to support students, teachers, and others in efforts to spot and report warning signs of gun violence before a tragedy occurs. Clearly, more is required, and this funding will be a priority for me this year too.

Finally, let me just acknowledge that the progress we have made in the House is meaningless if we can't get the Senate to act. With that in mind, I will continue to push my counterparts in the Senate, especially Senate Republicans who have – thus far – stood in the way of reforms, to support these common-sense proposals. There have been ongoing bipartisan discussions on potential gun safety reform legislation occurring between a group of senators, and I am hopeful that we will see legislative action as a result. I'll keep pushing in that regard.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important topic. As your representative and as a fellow United Methodist, I appreciate your church being engaged on issues that matter. Please know that I have a sense of urgency about making progress on this important issue. With that in mind, I'm grateful for your engagement and encourage you to continue to share your views with me on this topic or any other issue. Thank you for reaching out. It is an honor to serve as your representative.

Sincerely,

Derek Kilmer Member of Congress

Quilcene Food Bank



Items bought for Quilcene Food Bank Senior Table out of the Jesus Cup.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

(Formerly United Methodist Women)

Although we're busy enjoying our summer events, we need to begin thinking about the upcoming year. We'd love to have you join us as we begin the 2022-23 year and continue our support of women, children and youth through many avenues of giving. Here are a few dates to put on your calendar:

We will have a kick-off meeting on **Thursday, September 1**st. This will be a <u>potluck picnic</u> at a location yet to be determined and Marcy Wootan will give a demonstration of flower arranging. Please bring a dish to share as well as your ideas for programs and projects that you would like to see presented.

Join me for a trip to Coupeville on **Saturday, September 10**th for the <u>Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting</u>. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. and includes a salad lunch (\$10.00). The last time the district met in person was three years ago so they are hoping for a large turnout for this gathering.

The <u>Pacific Northwest Conference UMF Annual Meeting</u> will be held on **Saturday,**Bothell. The keynote speaker is Rev. Sharon Delgado who will speak on "Climate Justice and Water". Registration information will be coming soon.

If you haven't seen it already. I'd like to share United Women in Faith's statement on Roe v Wade below.

As a leading Christian women's organization committed to the needs of women, children, and youth, United Women in Faith is concerned about the impact of today's Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v Wade, a ruling that had protected women's rights to legal and safe abortion since 1973. We know from women's experiences in the United States that the banning of abortions will not end abortions. Rather, women of financial means will travel to areas where abortion remains safe and legal, while many poor and working-class women and girls will resort to unsafe procedures that could cost them their lives, which happened too often prior to the Roe decision.

Over the years, The United Methodist Church has adopted a position on abortion that calls us to respect both the sanctity of unborn human life and the well-being of the mother, while supporting the legal option of abortion by certified medical providers in cases of "tragic conflicts of life with life." *

As a matter of religious liberty in this country, women are entitled to seek guidance in the privacy of their families and faith traditions or ethical mores in these moments. Religious communities offer guidance on this issue expressly because there are so many differing opinions, questions, and circumstances. The United Methodist Church has provided such guidance for members (*The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline 2016*, ¶161 K). Other faith communities provide their own guidance. Women must be able to make decisions touching on the multiple lives involved in a pregnancy both because it is a fundamental right and because it is necessary to her free exercise of religious belief.



UPDATE

United Women of Faith will have its kick-off meeting on **Thursday, September 1, at 10:00 a.m.** This will be a **potluck pic- nic** at the **Nordland Garden Club**; Marcy Wootan will give a demonstration of flower arranging. Please bring a dish to share as well as your ideas for programs and projects that you would like to see presented. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar now.

Please let me know if you wish to join me for a trip to Coupeville on **Saturday, September 10**th for the <u>Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting</u>. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. and includes a salad lunch (\$10.00). The last time the district met in person was three years ago so they are hoping for a large turnout for this gathering. I have the registration forms now - the registration deadline is September 3rd.



Jean Holtz, CUMC General Store, reports she made good connections with Hadlock Veterinary Clinic & Dove House. Dr. Weisen agreed to help Peter's Place & Margaret"s Village with a free clinic at CUMC. This has been a dream of hers since helping to start our store. She also agreed to take them some free dog & cat food for them to give to their low income patients.



Lay Member Annual Conference Report Joan Flowers-CUMC Lay member

The 2022 PNW Annual Conference for the 149th session of the PNW Conference:

The Conference theme for this year was "Called To Be Alert, Faithful, Brave, Love" (1 Cor. 16-13-14)

This year's session was again by ZOOM due to the continue concerns of COVID. The Bishop in her opening address called for the local churches to be active in Mission, Gun Control, and response to areas in the world stricken by tsunamis, flooding, etc.. She also said "Stand firm in your faith, that when God is doing a new good thing, there may be disruption. But there will be a way through it, and it will be worth it".

During the opening session several area wide ministry reports were given including one from the <u>Circle of Indigenous People</u> and <u>Disaster Response</u>.

JoAnn Hayden (Alaska) and three others shared the Laity Address, highlighting ways laity are involved with church ministry.

Two days later, the lay and clergy were in session receiving reports from Conference level boards and agencies. This session included the <u>board of ordained ministries</u>, after which they honored the clergy retirements and the passing of clergy and laity over the past year. Upon the retirement of three Bishops (one being Bishop Elaine Stanovsky), the Conference members affirmed six names for discernment to the episcopacy.

It was announced there was only one church closure, and that was Foothills UMC in Bonney Lake, WA.

An offering was taken to support relief in Tonga, which was devastated by a tsunami this year. Over \$11k was collected from clergy and laity across the Greater Northwest area.

The <u>G.N.W. Vitality Commission</u> received the vote and acceptance to extend their work. Another report that was heard was from the conference treasurers regarding the Boy Scouts of America's pending settlement and the commitments they would honor, and the safe places for vulnerable persons.

During the session a statement presented by Rev. Ruth Marston-Bill (PNW), and two other clergy members read: "Ask members to support access to vital reproductive healthcare". The lay & clergy voted to affirm this statement.

In closing, the conference held a worship service with a celebration of Bishop Stanofsky's ministry. She retires at the end of 2023. This was her last annual conference as a Bishop.

Blessings on your unfolding & exciting future, Bishop Stanofsky!







Photo by Scott Rosekrans



Altar Flowers



Lori Oberlander and Kathi VanCamp have led the work related to the Good Neighbor Experiment Lab 1 weeks 1, 2 and 3. The labs have been a wonderful opportunity for us to explore the ingredients of neighboring which is Relationship, Abundance and Joy.

- Week 1 we reflected and discussed in an open and honest conversation about the ingredients of neighboring soup: Relationships, Abundance and Joy and about the literal meaning of God's commandment: Love thy neighbor.
- Week 2 we reflected and discussed and reflected on ingredient 1, Relationship with God. The
 reading invited us to begin our work of loving our neighbors by first fostering our love for God.
- Week 3 we discussed and reflected on the importance of being in relationship with our actual neighbors.

In August the Neighboring team will reflecting on the material in Lab 1, week 4, 5, and 6.

- Week 4 we will be discussing the ingredient of abundance through Generosity. We will be invited
 to consider an experiment with generosity of time or resources.
- Week 5- we will be discussing and reflecting about the giftedness of the people around us.
- Week 5- Celebration! We will be celebrating the completion of Lab 1 with a time to celebrate and
 reflect on what we have learned and experimented with the first lab.

We look forward to starting Lab 2 in September. Join us!

If you would like to be involved with discussions, please email Lori at Lori.obe@q.com and I can send materials in advance of the weekly lab.



CREATING CONNECTIONS



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:

2022

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January	ЕСННО	\$ 500.00
February	Food Bank	\$ 500.00
March	OlyCAP	\$ 500.00
April	ЕСННО	\$ 500.00
May	Food Bank	\$ 500.00
June	OlyCAP	\$ 500.00
July	ЕСННО	\$
August	Food Bank	\$
September	OlyCAP	\$
October	ECHHO\$	
November	Food Bank	\$
December	OlyCAP	\$

06/30/22

FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

2022 June Year to Date

2022 Julie Teal to Date		00/30/22
Income		\$68,377.53
Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$60,100.20	
Other Income	\$8,277.33	
Expenses		\$67,472.69
Apportionments	\$8,635.08	
Local Program Ministry	\$6,504.48	
Operating Expenses	\$25,731.36	
Personnel Expenses	\$26,601.77	
Difference		\$904.84

BIRTHDAYS	HOSPITALITY	OUR PRAYERS
12 Marcy Wootan 18 Bev Rothenborg 19 Pat Chase 25 Teresa Rosekrans31 31 Hank Hazen	7 14 21 28	 For the homeless, the hungry and the unemployed. For Peace on Earth!
	3 LITURGISTS	* For wisdom for our leaders.
ALTAR FLOWERS	7	* For employment for
7 Marcy Wootan 14 21 Liz Hazen	14 21 28	people struggling to find meaningful work.
28 Billie Fitch		* For Healing and
COMMUNION SERVERS	SUNDAY SCHOOL 7 14 21	provisions for those who are suffering with COVID-19.
COUNTERS	28	* For protection of the medical front-
7 14	USHERS	line workers who are caring for
21 28	7 14 21	patients with COVID -19 and variants.
7 14 21 28	28	

August LECTIONARY READINGS

August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Isa 1:1, 10-20	Isa 5:1-7	Jer 1:4-10	Jer 2:4-13
Ps 50:1-8, 22-23	Ps 80:1-2, 8-19	Ps 71:1-6	Ps 81:1, 10-16
Heb 11:1-3, 8-16	Heb 11:29-12:2	Heb 12:18-29	Heb 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 12:32-40	Luke 12:49-56	Luke 13:10-17	Luke 14:1, 7-14

Being the Somebodies Who Do Something In Jesus' Name

			2pm Tai Chi, sanc- tuary 3pm Bell Choir (sanctuary)	30	29 Rainshadow Rehears- al (sanctuary) 6:30p – 9:15pm	10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship
Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm	26	7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Lib)	-		Rainshadow Rehears- al (sanctuary) 6:30p – 9:15pm	10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship
Clothes Close- Hours: 10am to 1pm	19) 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	Deadline for articles for September Newsletter 2pm Tai Chi, sanctuary 3pm Bell Choir (sanctuary)	16	15	14 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship
Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm	12	11 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	2pm Tai Chi, sanctuary 3pm Bell Choir (sanctuary) 6:30pm Admin/Finance Council Zoom Meeting	9	8 Alzheimer Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom)	7 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship
Clothes Closet Hours: 10am to 1pm.	5	7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting 4	3 2pm Tai Chi, sanc- tuary 3pm Bell Choir (sanctuary)	2	1	
Sat	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	Sun
			August 2022	А		

July 9th, 2022

The Dream Team

Romans 12:5

By Kirsten Holmberg

Together, friends Melanie and Trevor have hiked miles of mountain trails. Yet neither would be able to do so without the other. Melanie, born with spina bifida, uses a wheelchair. Trevor lost his sight to glaucoma. The duo realized they were one another's perfect complement for enjoying the Colorado wilderness: As he walks the trails, Trevor carries Melanie on his back; meanwhile, she gives him verbal directions. They describe themselves as a "dream team."

Paul describes believers in Jesus—the body of Christ—as a similar kind of "dream team." He urged the Romans to recognize how their individual giftings benefitted the larger group. Just as our physical bodies are made up of many parts, each with different functions, together we "form one [spiritual] body" and our gifts are meant to be given in service for the collective benefit of the church (Romans 12:5). Whether in the form of giving, encouraging, or teaching, or any of the other spiritual gifts, Paul instructs us to view ourselves and our gifts as belonging to all the others (v. 5).

Melanie and Trevor aren't focused on what they lack, nor are they prideful of what they do have in comparison to the other. Rather they cheerfully give of their "gifts" in service to the other, recognizing how much they're both bettered by their collaboration. May we too freely combine the gifts God has given us with those of our fellow members—for the sake of Christ.



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