

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of  
Community United Methodist Church



November 2022

## A PURPLE CHURCH

I read an interesting article a few weeks ago where a study was conducted regarding the political persuasion of churches. According to the article, churches that focused more on preaching salvation tended to be red and churches that preached a message of social justice tended to be blue. It wasn't exact or one hundred percent, but such were the tendencies. I found the article interesting and noted that they didn't talk about any purple churches and wondered if such a church was even possible or a goal we should even strive to achieve.

Admittedly, I do preach more than my fair share of social justice but that's where my passion lies, and it has little to do with my political persuasion. I think my bent for social justice issues comes from my experiences as a police officer, a defense attorney, and a prosecutor, all of which exposed me to a wide range of social ills. Ills many aspiring politicians seize upon to scare you into voting for them. Don't believe me? Stop reading and go turn on the television and watch a few of these attack ads. But I digress. Now, during these time periods I did attend church and honestly do not recall any of the pastors loudly beating the social justice drum on a regular basis. Most did preach salvation, but they may have been preaching to the choir as most of those sitting in the pews would tell you they've already been saved. It does kind of make me wonder if our neglect for social justice issues has played a role in the decline of mainline denominations with more vacant pews as our relevancy is being questioned by more and more people. It was, after all, John Wesley's combination of salvation and social justice that propelled the Methodist Church into a recognized denomination with a worldwide membership in the millions, out of which grew major universities and medical centers that focused on the mind and body. It begs the question as to whether or not our denomination has lost that focus. A strong argument could be made that we have as we face the all-to-real prospect of a split to where we can't really call ourselves "united."

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Ironically, over the past six years I have actually had people ask me about the political leanings of our church. I tell them that I haven't taken a poll but that in my conversations with individual members of the congregation I can get a feel for where they may be politically and that we actually have Democrats, Republicans, and Independents in attendance on any given Sunday and they don't sit on either side of the aisle as they do in Congress, as far as I can tell. I have had many who have checked us out and have stayed tell me that they do like the genuine message of social justice, which I tell them was a seed that was planted long before I got here. I'm just the associate gardener tending to the garden hoping to play a part in producing more righteous fruit.

And just in case you didn't know, I didn't go to seminary, and I have said more than once that my knowledge of theology was not a pool you would want to dive into headfirst. And I struggle with that because I don't want to be one of those one-trick ponies which is why I rely upon the Lectionary to provide a balanced variety of topics upon which to preach, and I have noticed that many times there is actually a sermon series hidden within the weekly scripture readings. I also rely on my annotated Study Bible, a Wesley Commentary, and another very comprehensive commentary written by three theologians all with Doctor of Theology degrees, in my sermon preparations so if I'm questioned by someone regarding where I got something I said in one of my sermons I can point to my sources as mentioned above along with the Scripture and our beloved Book of Discipline. So far that's prevented a massive Sunday morning walkout.

So, with all that being said, should it really be a goal to be a purple church, or should we be one that has a balanced blend of salvation and good works? I think we can find our answer in the words of the Apostle James who was, by the way, Jesus' brother who said: "My brothers and sisters, what good it is if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it?" You can't have one without the other and to have just that right combination takes an effort on our part as we follow the lead of the Spirit who, as far as I can tell, is neither a Republican or a Democrat, but is an independent committed follower of the way of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Faithfully,

Scott





## ALTAR FLOWERS

Photos by Scott Rosekrans



**We are Very fortunate to have flower artists amongst us!**  
**God Bless them!**



United  
Women  
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH will hold its annual lunch-out meeting on  
**Thursday, November 3rd, at 11:00 a.m.**

at the

Highway 20 Roadhouse Restaurant

2152 West Sims Way, Port Townsend

Devotions will be given by **Siochain Deva** prior to our business meeting.

We hope to see you then. Bring a friend!

### **DONATE TO DOVE HOUSE**

As part of our mission to support women, children and youth, we are collecting feminine hygiene products for Dove House.

Many low-income and homeless women often don't have access to tampons and pads at all. Food banks and shelters distribute them, but they're often in short supply. Tampons and pads are one of the least donated items for homeless women in the United States, despite being highly requested. Many homeless women are forced to improvise with wadded up toilet paper or tissues or they simply go without.

**Dove House is specifically requesting tampons and pantie liners which will be made available to women at both Dove House and the Recovery Cafe.**

You can bring your donation to the November meeting or leave it in the designated box in the church narthex any time through the month of November.







## Church Council Chairperson

You may be wondering, what does the Council Chair to anyway?

By Lori Oberlander

### **The Church Council Chairperson:**

The Church Council Chairperson is elected by the Charge Conference Annually. This meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. and I invite you to attend the Charge Conference. The Church Council Chairperson is entitled to attend meetings of all committees and subcommittees but is not required.

Some of the duties of the Church Council Chairperson is:

1. Leading the Council in fulfilling the mission of the church and the Administrative Board Duties.
2. Preparing and communicating the agenda of the council meetings in consultation with the Pastor, the Lay Leader, and other appropriate church leaders.
3. Reviewing and assigning responsibility for the implementation of actions taken by the council.
4. Communicating with members of the council and others appropriate to permit informed action at council meetings.
5. Coordinating the various activities of the council.
6. Providing the initiative and leadership for the council as it does its planning, establishing objectives and goals.
7. Participating in leadership training programs as offered by the annual conference and the district.

If you feel called to serve in the role of Church Council Chairperson, please contact Pastor Scott or Lori Oberlander for more details.



By Lori Oberlander

Update: The small group study about neighboring has changed over to a Zoom format! The days and time will remain the same—Thursday night from 7p.m. to 8p.m. If you are interested in getting on the weekly Zoom Meeting invitation, just send an email to Lori at [Lori.obe@q.com](mailto:Lori.obe@q.com) or catch her before or after church.

We have started on Lab 2:

We will be building on the experiments in Lab 1, but not to worry, if you are joining now, we can still get you up to speed quickly.

Relationships are one of the key ingredients of neighboring; the other two are Abundance and Joy. While these 3 ingredients complement each other and work together, Lab 2 is going to take us on a deep dive with relationship (and abundance and joy will come up from time to time).

Week 3 – November 3, 2022: We will be considering the easily overlooked acquaintance and open the possibility of discovering our neighbor's skills, gifts, and cares—catching a glimpse of God.

Week 4 – November 10, 2022: We will be exploring the difference between neighbor friendships and friendships.

Week 5 – November 17, 2022: When we invest in neighboring over a long period of time, developing relationships and looking for gifts, new vistas of possibility emerge. We discover we are not alone. When neighbors start to connect and establish relationships, they can work together to accomplish amazing things.

November 24, 2022: Happy Thanksgiving!

*We look forward completing starting Lab 2 in November. Join us!*

# THAT CHURCH

Photos by Scott Rosekrans



**Volunteers sorting our many Octoberrrr! donations.**

**The General Store is open Saturdays between  
10:00am to 1:30pm.**

**Free food, clothing, shoes, sheets, blankets, household items,  
camping gear & more!**

**130 Church Lane, Port Hadlock, WA  
[cumc.donate@gmail.com](mailto:cumc.donate@gmail.com)**

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## Parsonage Kitchen in progress...



Photos by Scott Rosekrans



**Almost there. Thanks to Don and John!**





Local

MISSION  
*of the*  
MONTH

2022

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	\$ 500.00
August	Food Bank	\$ 500.00
September	ECHHO	\$ 500.00
October	Bayside	\$
November	Food Bank	\$
December	ECHHO	\$

## FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

## 2022 September Year to Date

09/30/22

## Income

\$99,971.26

Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$84,498.93
Other Income	\$15,472.33

## Expenses

\$90,257.30

Apportionments	\$12,952.62
Local Program Ministry	\$8,370.07
Operating Expenses	\$31,761.06
Personnel Expenses	\$37,452.12
Accounting Adjustment	-\$278.57

## Difference

\$9,713.96

BIRTHDAYS	HOSPITALITY	OUR PRAYERS
2 Wendy Metzer 5 Richard Christopher 9 Bill Metzer 10 Janet Stevenson 12 Carolyn Allen 21 Cindi Jones	6 13 20 27	* 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	
6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	
COMMUNION SERVERS	SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	6 13 20 27	
COUNTERS	USHERS	
6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	
GREETERS		
6 13 20 27		



### November LECTIONARY READINGS

#### November 6

Hag 1:15b-2:9  
 Ps 145:1-5,17-21  
 2 Thess 2:1-5,13-17  
 Luke 20:27-38

#### November 13

Isa 65:17-25  
 Isa 12 or Ps 118  
 2 Thess 3:6-13  
 Luke 17:11-19

#### November 20

Jer 23:1-6  
 Luke 1:68-69  
 Col 1:11-20  
 Luke 23:33-43

#### November 27

Isa 2:1-5  
 Ps 122  
 Rom 13:11-14  
 Matt 24:36-44

**Being the Somebodies Who Do Something In Jesus' Name**

# November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4pm Bell Choir (sanctuary)	3 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting Bible Study 1:30-3:00pm (Lib)	4	5 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm.
6 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	7	8	9 4pm Bell Choir (sanctuary)	10 Bible Study 1:30-3:00pm (Lib)	11	12 General Store- Hours: 10am to 1pm  Charge Conference
13 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	14 Alzheimer Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom)	15	16 4pm Bell Choir (sanctuary)  Deadline for arti- cles for December Newsletter	17 Bible Study 1:30-3:00pm (Lib)  7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	18	19 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm
20 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	21	22	23 Deadline for arti- cles for October Newsletter  4pm Bell Choir (sanctuary)	24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	25	26 General Store- Hours: 10am to 1pm
27 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	28	29	30 4pm Bell Choir (sanctuary)			
30 10:00am Worship	31					



July 11, 2021

## Hope in Grief

1 Thessalonians 4:13By Bill Crowder

As the cabbie drove us to London's Heathrow Airport, he told us his story. He had come alone to the United Kingdom at age fifteen, seeking to escape war and deprivation. Now, eleven years later, he has a family of his own and is able to provide for them in ways unavailable in his native land. But he laments that he's still separated from his parents and siblings. He told us that he's had a hard journey that won't be complete until he's reunited with his family.

Being separated from our loved ones in this life is hard, but losing a loved one in death is much harder and creates a sense of loss that won't be made right until we're reunited with them. When the new believers at Thessalonica wondered about such losses, Paul wrote, "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). He explained that as believers in Jesus, we can live in expectation of a wonderful reunion—together forever in the presence of Christ (v. 17).

Few experiences mark us as deeply as the separations we endure, but in Jesus we have hope of being reunited. And in the midst of grief and loss we can find the comfort we need in that enduring promise (v. 18).

**Community United Methodist Church****Being the Somebodies Who Do Something in Jesus' Name**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1165

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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](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