

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church



The Obvious

As Teresa will readily tell you, it is often that the obvious escapes me. It's true and I freely admit it, but oh what a great sensation it is when that light bulb goes on and I experience that "Ah-Ha" moment when the fog lifts and I have that wonderful moment of clarity. (How's that for a sentence of mixed metaphors!)

I had one of those moments, sort of, recently as I was writing my sermon on Jesus calling his first four disciples to help him with his growing ministry. I've wrestled with this concept of discipleship for years, even more so after becoming a Certified Lay Minister and being assigned to our church. Before taking the pulpit I found a copy of our United Methodist Book of Discipline at Goodwill and read it from cover to cover which really amazed the District Superintendent who recommended me for this position back in 2016. Part IV of the discipline is The Ministry of all Christians and starts out in paragraph 120 in defining the mission of "The Churches" as: *The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.* I know you're familiar with this mission if you've listened to or read my sermons over the years as I have repeated it many times. It's kind of a mantra so-to-speak. Did you ever wonder what's behind the mantra? I have.

I don't recommend reading the Book of Discipline for pleasure as it will cause your eyes to roll back in your heads. We're called Methodists for a reason. Case in point, paragraph 122 of the Discipline is entitled: The Process for Carrying Out Our Mission. It says: *We make disciples as we:*

Proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ;

Lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ;

Nurture persons in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and other means of grace, such as Wesley's Christian conferencing;

Send person into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a compassionate, caring presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel; and

Continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ.

Oh, there's more but I think you get the point.

February 2023

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The Obvious cont...

So this begs the question of where are we as a church in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? I think the answer to that question is obvious, don't you? I believe the disciples we have are very well-suited to healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a compassionate, caring presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel. It's not that we don't want to or can't do the other aspects of making disciples, and believe me I have struggled with how to do them, it's just that I think God's focus for us right now is in helping the hopeless and helpless with the basic necessities of life. I believe that God looked down on our little corner of the world and saw the great need of some pretty desperate people and came up with a plan on how to best address it. He saw a church that was well situated within the community that just needed a little prodding to respond through discipleship. That's my "Ah-Ha" moment when a bright burst of clarity came upon me. I go back to that day almost seven years ago when I was introduced to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee as the new pastor for Community United Methodist Church. I distinctly remember that one question I was asked that really struck with me. They asked me what I saw as my mission for the church. That was a great question, and I really hadn't anticipated it. Without missing a beat, I responded that as their former elected Prosecuting Attorney with four years in Drug Court I saw the Tri-Area as ground zero for addiction, unemployment, housing insecurity, and other livability issues, and that CUMC was in a position to do something about it. I asked for six months to get my feet on the ground, to look around, and that I'd come back with a plan. Now, I'll be real honest with you, not only did I not have a plan, I didn't have a clue, but I knew the Holy Spirit was out there and was ready to get going. I did have my "Jesus Cup" and that was a start.

Would I like for us to be better, as a pastor and a church, to be better at the other ways of making disciples? Sure I would, and I pray often for that day to come, but in the meantime we are responding to the call of the Spirit to make disciples within our own congregation to be the kind of disciples who lovingly and compassionately work to establish a caring presence right here within our community that works to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ. And, even more amazingly, we have drawn the attention of others within our greater community who are excited about what we are doing and freely support us with their donations of all kinds and, sometimes even praise God for our existence. So, let's thank God for the opportunity and privilege to be his church in this community that displays its discipleship through service to others and, at the same time, let's pray that He shows us, your pastor included, how to carry out the mission of the church in the other discipleship making areas. It's that obvious.



ALTAR FLOWERS

From January 29th service

And Sue Matthews dedication of
service

**Scott Rosekrans**

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**Community United Methodist Church**

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Jefferson County's Newest Library. For the last two years Community United Methodist Church has operated a clothes closet/food pantry on Saturday mornings in an effort to assist the housing challenged in the Tri-Area. In the process we've learned much about our neighbors who have fallen on hard times. One of the things we've learned is, like you and me, they like to read and a request came in from one of our clients quite some time ago for some books to read. We started small and it has really taken off and many of them are pretty good about returning the books once read. If you have some gently read books we might be interested in them. We even have a children's section. What we really need is a "librarian" who can help keep it organized. So, if you're looking for a rewarding ministry this would be a great opportunity for you. If you have any questions send us an email to CUMC.donate@gmail.com and one of our volunteers will get right back to you.



Many thanks to Kelly at the Bayview Restaurant in Port Townsend or her contribution of over \$40.00 to our Jesus Cup ministry.

Photos by Scott Rosekrans



The Good Neighbor experiment celebrated the conclusion of Lab 2 on January 5, 2023. It was a great way to start 2023.

We are excited to continue on to Lab 3.

In lab 2 we learned that people want neighboring and welcome relationships. Neighboring doesn't end with the end of this experiment. We are learning lifelong skills and shifting our attitudes towards actively participating in neighboring as a lifelong endeavor.

Lab 3 we will be reflecting on looking for hidden gifts in our small group and in our church family. We will be working on looking for hidden treasures in our community, which happens at the speed of relationship and watching how God is working already in our neighborhoods.

In Lab 3, we will be taking a deep dive into the process of moving the congregation from scarcity to abundance.

The steps include:

- Looking for hidden gifts

- Connecting these gifts

- Tell the story of abundance

- Identifying areas that we view through a lens of scarcity

Please join us in our experiment to discover the gifts of the garden in our church community.

We will be building on the experiments in Lab 1 & 2, but not to worry, if you are interested in joining now, we can still get you up to speed quickly. We welcome new stories about how neighbors have impacted your life and how you have impacted their lives.

We look forward completing starting Lab 3 in January and February. Join us!

ALTAR FLOWERS



TRAINING MY REPLACEMENT

BOOKCASE BY DON OLSEN



Hello again, church family!

I would like to share with you the behind-the-scenes actions of some of the missionaries who take such good care of our General Store clients by making sure that we have what they need.

First up are Redeemer Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church. We've spoken of the quilting group at Redeemer blessing us with piles of quilts (literally!) in both adult and children's sizes for over a year. Everyone in Peter's Place and Margaret's Village who wanted one of these warm, cozy quilts has one! We continue to offer them to new residents as they move in. We were also able to supply Pat's Place in Port Townsend when they opened. And the clients who live in tents and cars wrap themselves up in these beautiful, warm quilts every night, too. What a blessing!

In addition to this wonderful quilt ministry, one woman at Redeemer has taken it upon herself to supply us with fresh mini loaves of multigrain and sourdough bread each week and to bring us handmade children's pillowcases made of soft flannel in darling kid's patterns. Especially when these kids live where they cannot keep too many toys and other comforts, a special brightly colored pillowcase made just for them can let them know they are loved.

Jean Schubert, member of our Clothes Closet team and founder of our children's department, and her church, Peace Lutheran are active supporters of the General Store, especially the Clothes Closet. Any time people call ahead needing children's clothing, or even when they just drop in, Jean makes sure their needs are met. She also involves her congregation who, like we CUMC'ers, have quite a few aging members who can't always "do", but are overjoyed to give. Jean and the people of Peace have donated a supply of children's underwear as well as much needed funding to the Store. A few weeks ago, we received a clothing donation that included two beautiful handmade indigenous dolls clothed in traditional garb and leather moccasins. Jean spotted them and came up with the idea of selling them and buying clothes for the children's department. The accompanying photo shows just how well she did! Great idea with an excellent result!

One local gentleman stops in every few weeks to make a list of our pressing needs and then goes out to track them down. He is the person I mentioned last Sunday who brought in the large bag from Goodwill that had mostly new jeans in it, primarily in the small sizes we didn't currently have. A male client who had waited for weeks for jeans that fit his unusual size was very, very happy after this gift arrived! This donor is also the person who, when we have hot spells, scours every hardware store in the area for fans so that our Peter's Place residents can stay cool. Early in our ministry he brought in, with some other things, a beautiful kimono for which we thanked him profusely, but secretly had doubts about anyone choosing. Enter a lovely woman who lost everything when she became homeless. She took one look at the kimono and asked if she could have it because one of the possessions she lost was a much beloved kimono collection. Sometimes we just need to stand back, watch God at work, and say, "thank you".



There is also the gentleman who lives down near Portland and travels a large loop past here, over to Port Angeles, and back, stopping at many surplus stores and discount clothing places along the way. He often drops off a whole carload of boots, shoes, clothing, and other supplies which allow us to not only clothe our clients but also assist Vet Connect, one of the organizations with which we partner. Before Christmas, on one of his last stops at the Store for the year, he also dropped off a large amount in gift cards to get food for people. Whenever we exclaim over all the fantastic things he does, he is very modest and almost embarrassed. He's an angel.

One of our area Rainbow Girls spent her lockdown time knitting so many hats and scarves for our clients that we ended up having enough to share with the food banks and other organizations who requested them. We gave some of our excess scarves to a few of the ladies of the UWF to put together to form blankets to keep our clients warm. Teamwork!

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Now we come to YOU, beloved congregation! I am constantly amazed (although truly I shouldn't be) with the mini ministries that you come up with so that our clients can be so very well taken care of. You step in when you see something that's needed and fill in the gaps without our even asking.

A year ago this past Christmas, Patty Miller decided that people should be warm for the holidays and bought six beautiful all-cotton thick flannel robes, thinking especially of the people in Peter's Place who must cross a yard to get to the bathroom no matter what the weather. Our clients loved them! The last one went to a man who was staying in his car and wrapped up in it at night as one of many layers to keep him warm.

Fresh half dozens of eggs are brought in frequently from Kathi VanCamp's chickens and are immediately snapped up by our clients.

Don Olson has fixed and built hanging racks and shelves. He recently affixed our new library shelves to the wall for earthquake safety. He's always willing to listen to any wild idea we have, even if sometimes he needs to tell us it can't be done.

We have put out requests for shelving for our sorting and storage room, soy wax for making fire starters, boots, jeans, all kinds of food, and it shows up weekly from many of you whether on Jean Holtz's food pantry table, our mission room tables, or even delivered to the front door by Amazon. A number of you surprise us with something you've thought of that our clients might like. Some donations are large, some are small, and ALL make a huge difference.

Mini cosmetics continue to come in from your travels. These are sorted and put into kits for our clients as well as being sent to the YMCA, along with towels, for the clients there.

We could not do what we do without our donation sorters led by Debbie Dodd and Sue French. Thanks to Connie Ross, too, for organizing our mission room so that we can easily find extra stock to refill the Closet and be able to easily change out our inventory at the turning of the season. If we have donations that are excellent items but need a little refreshing, Teresa Rosekrans and Pat Chase have been laundering them.

I hope I have not left anyone out, but if I have, please know you ALL are SO appreciated!

With much love and gratitude,

Marsha



Photo by Scott Rosekrans

A Wednesday work crew doing some sorting of clothing donations.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4pm Bell Choir	2 UWF 10AM Good Neighbor Experiment. Zoom 7-8pm GNE 7-8pm Al-Anon	3	General Store Hours 10-1 4
5 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	6	7	8 4pm Bell Choir (Finance Admin Council Meeting 6:30pm on Zoom	9 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library) GNE Zoom 7-8p	10	11 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm
12 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	13 Alzheimer Support Group 10:30-noon In classroom Rainshadow Rehearsal (sanctuary) 6:30p-9:15pm	14	15 4pm Bell Choir deadline for articles for March Newsletter	16 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library) GNE Zoom 7-8p	17	18 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm
19 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	20 Statistical Report Due	21	5 4pm Bell Choir	23 GNE zoom 7-8p 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	24	25 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm
26 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	27	28		7		

BIRTHDAYS	HOSPITALITY	OUR PRAYERS
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3 Debbie Dodd
 4 John Sweet
 5 Patricia Broughton
 12 Betty Haemon
 18 Jackie Dale
 27 Scott Rosekrans

ALTAR FLOWERS

5 Marcy Wootan
 12 Billie Fitch
 19 Liz Hazen
 26 LENT worship team

COMMUNION SERVERS

COUNTERS

5 Lori & Kathi
 12 Debbie & Connie
 19 Marsha & Diane
 26 Lynn & Betty

GREETERS

5
 12
 19
 26

5
 12
 19
 26

LITURGISTS

5
 12
 19
 26

SUNDAY SCHOOL

5
 12
 19
 26

USHERS

- * 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.



January LECTIONARY READINGS

<p><u>February 5</u> <u>Isa 58:1-9(9b-12)</u> <u>Ps 112:1-9(10)</u> <u>1Cor2:1-12(13-16)</u> <u>Matt5:13-20</u></p>	<p><u>February 12</u> Duet 30:15-20 Ps 119:1-8 1Cor 3:1-9 Matt 5:21-37</p>	<p><u>February 19</u> Exod 24:12-18 Ps 99 2Pet 1:16-21 Matt 17:1-9</p>	<p><u>February 26</u> Gen 2:15-17;3-17 Ps 32 Rom 5:12-19 Matt 4:1-11</p>
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Being the Somebodies Who Do Something In Jesus' Name



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:

2023

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	\$ 1129.00
November	Food Bank	\$ 500.00
December	ECHHO	\$ 500.00

FINANCE REPORT

By Larry Jensen

Financial Report for Newsletter		
2022 November Year to Date		11/30/22
Income		\$122,651.26
Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$102,200.93	
Other Income	\$20,450.33	
Expenses		\$103,503.00
Apportionments	\$15,830.98	
Local Program Ministry	\$9,355.03	
Operating Expenses	\$34,395.06	
Personnel Expenses	\$44,200.50	
Accounting Adjustment	-\$278.57	
Difference		\$19,148.26

Sept 29,2022

A Message From God

Sammar Aaroom Punjab Pakistan

My husband had been ill for several days and we were worried he may have contracted COVID-19 virus. We live with our parents and young children , and the idea of spreading the virus to them troubled us. We had him tested for the virus, and we found it challenging to wait patiently for the results. Each evening after dinner my children, their caretaker, and I gather to read a passage from a children's Bible. That evening when I opened the Bible to our story for the day, the title was "Jesus Heals". I flipped back a page thinking maybe I had skipped ahead, but I hadn't. I was filled with heartfelt gratitude because I knew God was speaking to me. I told my children's caretaker about how God speaks to us through scripture. We need only to approach God faithfully, and God will guide us through our trails. That night as I read aloud the story of Jesus giving life to Jairus's sick daughter, I was assured that whatever test results my husband received, God would lead us through the tribulation. It was a peaceful night.



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