

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



September 2023

It's A Gift

Stopping just short of doing a Robert Johnson and going down to the crossroads to make a deal with the devil to play the guitar and sing the blues with reckless abandon I always wished I was a gifted musician with that natural ability to express myself in song. But I'm not that gifted. I take comfort in the fact that I make do with what I do have and hope that God can use me in any way He can to advance His kingdom even if is just playing chords.

And it was being able to use your God-given gifts that the Apostle Paul was talking about in his letter to the church in Rome. I preached on it a couple of weeks ago and noted that Paul mentioned what he considered to be the big four: prophesizing, teaching, service, and encouraging, and I suggested that all the other gifts sprang from these. Prophesizing and teaching are kind of specialized and scare quite a few people off, especially those who would rather take a beating than speak in public, a fear of which I am not afflicted. Not being able to prophesize or teach does not make service or encouragement any less important and I think it's our strength in service and encouragement which sets us apart as a church during these times of great need and uncertainty.

Our gifts of service and encouragement were on full display on Saturday afternoon, August 26th when we had our church/community picnic. I was blown away by what I witnessed. I saw many small gifts come together to create something that was truly special and meaningful not only for the church members that attended but for our neighbors who showed up to enjoy a picnic. I honestly do not think we would have had the community turnout if we hadn't been working on developing relationships and trust over the past several years. Nonchurchgoers are naturally suspicious of us Christians. This suspicion may be borne out of a previous bad experience with "organized" religion or an unfavorable perception fueled by religious leaders and churches not walking the talk. "I hear what you're saying, but I don't see you doing it." I'm hoping that people can see us doing what we are preaching. I'm hoping that it's just that obvious.

So, back to Saturday. Because everyone jumped in and did their part, I didn't have to do anything thanks largely to a retired Methodist pastor doing all the grilling and another member running the burgers and hotdogs inside to be served up by anxious volunteers. I was able to greet everyone who approached directing them inside to be greeted by a friendly face showing them where to fix their plate

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and then where to sit. I know I was duly impressed when I saw the table containing all the side dishes. The fruit salads were so colorful you would have thought they were professionally created. The pasta salads and other salads were numerous and very tasty looking. The home-made desserts were numerous and tantalizing. And, miraculously, I noticed that there were no little clusters of Methodists just sitting with other Methodists. The radical hospitality of sitting, eating, and visiting with someone you didn't know was on full display. These folks were truly made to feel like guests in God's house. I believe we planted these seeds at least three years ago when we allowed Peter's Place to be established in our backyard, when we partnered with Bayside Housing and Services in doing what we could for the housing challenged, and when we opened our clothes closet and food pantry in the midst of a global pandemic to serve the least, the last, and the lost with no questions asked and no strings attached. These folks, I believe, see us as we really are. They see us as good neighbors who just want to be helpful without asking or expecting anything in return. And because of that they want to associate with us, bestowing upon us their gifts of accepting us as their neighbors. Now that's a gift.

I don't know where this will go but I do know that we've produced some pretty sweet fruit. We couldn't have done this without the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit who has been preparing us for tasks just like this where we can successfully utilize our gifts. I do know that it has energized us as a congregation as we feel a real purpose and a renewed sense of spirituality as we see God at work through us. We have reestablished our footprint in the community. People know who we are, where we are, and what we stand for. People are excited about how we are utilizing our gifts and what we have to help others and are clamoring to help with donations both in much needed items and financially. People who are looking for a church that is relevant are checking us out, and some of the folks we have helped now feel comfortable enough to worship with us and that is a precious gift back to us.

This is what keeps me awake at night. It's not worrying whether or not we will survive another year or two. It's wondering what amazing gift is right around the corner ready for us to use and enjoy in service to God and his beloved children who could also use a gift. Being

entrusted by God to serve the least, the last of his beloved children is a gift not all get to experience and for that I am thankful.

At the end of the picnic, as we were cleaning up and all of our neighbors had gone home, one of our truly homeless clients who we've ministered to for a couple of years came back in seeking me out. He extended his hand and said: "Thank you pastor." I firmly believe it was Jesus' way of thanking us for being His church where it needs to be right here and right now. It's a gift.



CHURCH PICNIC

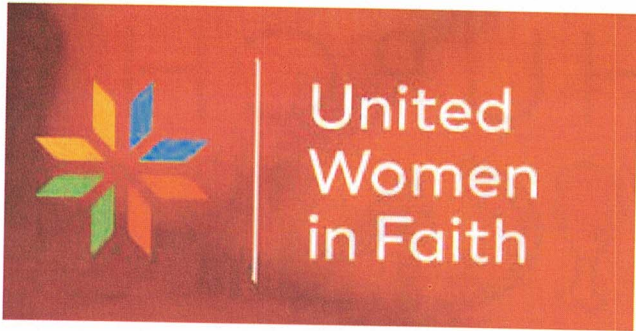


Socializing was the best.
Meeting neighbors and new friends!
Nice work
Good Neighbor Experiment!

Fun was had by all and the food was amazing!

Way to go Church Family!





United Women of Faith will have its kick-off meeting on **Thursday, September 7, at 10:00 a.m.** This will be our traditional **potluck picnic** held at the **Nordland Garden Club** on Marrowstone Island.

Our program and devotions will be presented by **Siochain Deva** who will tell about her recent trip to Ireland and share a few personal spiritual experiences. You are invited to share your own personal spiritual experiences if you wish.

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. Let me know if you need a ride for this event.

And be sure to mark your calendar for the upcoming UWF gatherings:

October 1 - United Women in Faith Sunday. Guest preacher is Rev. Dale Kelley who will give the sermon and lead the congregation in communion.

October 5 – Program: Tacoma Community House speaker followed by a salad luncheon. Several local area UWF groups have been invited to join us. Devotions by Pat Chase.

November 2 – Annual Lunch Out – Location to be determined. Devotions by Marcy Wootan.

December 7 – Chorale Bells will sing for us - followed by our annual pot luck meal. Devotions by Marsha Hamacher.

We'd love to have you join us if you've not been to a UWF gathering before or if it's been a while since you were with us. Please let me know if you need a ride - Diane Jensen, 402-290-1220 or dciensen29@gmail.com

FAITH -

At our heart and in our soul, we are a faith-driven organization. Our beliefs bring us together. And our spirituality pushes us to do more. Join us to boldly live your faith and connect to something bigger.

ACTIONS -

Our actions have always spoken as loud as our words. Acts of love. Acts of faith. Acts of change. For more than 150 years, our members have been showing up and getting things done. Together, we're making the world a better place: locally, globally, fearlessly.

Soups On!

Saturday Soup Kitchen: Savior's Soup



Update:

Lodema and Ray had to take care of some urgent family needs, and they will soon be gone for the season; it is up to us to keep the Soup Kitchen going. Please consider signing up to cook, serve, setup/clean up or provide a dozen hard boiled eggs or handheld fruit.

We have created an electronic Sign up Sheet for the Soup kitchen. There are openings available in September and October. See the link below.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Csppwd_nP1fifWg2cuy2TVNC0AyApth4BHnMclAMM4/edit?usp=sharing

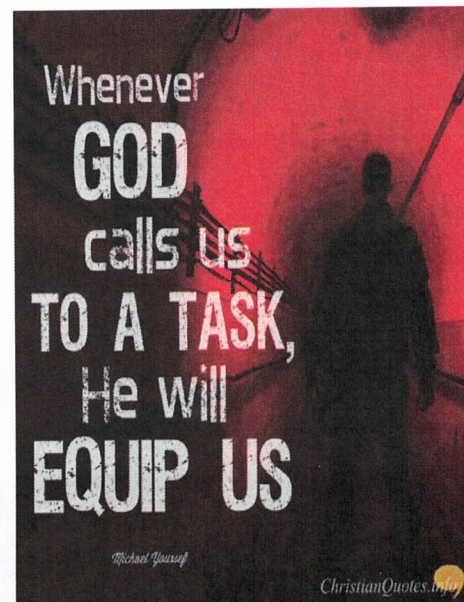
But don't worry if you can't access the link, there is a hard copy sign up sheet in the Narthex!

Each week it takes two people to handle the soup kitchen:

One person is needed to prepare the soup, set up the sanctuary, serve our guests, and clean up afterwards. A double batch usually does it especially if you use an extender like pasta or rice. Don't let the cost of buying ingredients slow you down, there are funds available to reimburse the costs of ingredients if requested.

We also need an extra set of hands to help with set-up, clean up and interacting or fellowshiping with our guests.

There is always plenty of bread and corn muffins, so you only need to provide a double batch of soup—maybe more, come in and set up, serve, and clean up. Each week it takes two people to handle the soup kitchen:



Sign up for fun, fellowship, and soup!

We are finding that some people need gluten free and vegetarian options. You can coordinate with Lodema to help meet this need.

We have also discovered that hard boiled eggs are a BIG hit--especially to go--and they love fresh fruit such as bananas and tangerines. We need volunteers to make a dozen hard boiled eggs and provide fresh fruit for each week.

The hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (this may change) and we serve about 15-30 people, including some to go.

It is easy and fun!

If you would like to help after they leave in September, come by any Saturday and we can provide you with the low-down of what it takes to do the set-up and clean up. It isn't difficult and it is rewarding and fun!

How to get involved:

Stop by any Saturday to get familiarized.

Talk to Lodema, Ray, or Lori on Sunday.

Use the calendar located in the kitchen to sign up.

Call Pastor Scott or the Church office at 360 385-1579.

Call Lori Oberlander at 360 620-0809.

Make a dozen hard boiled eggs.

Provide fresh fruit.

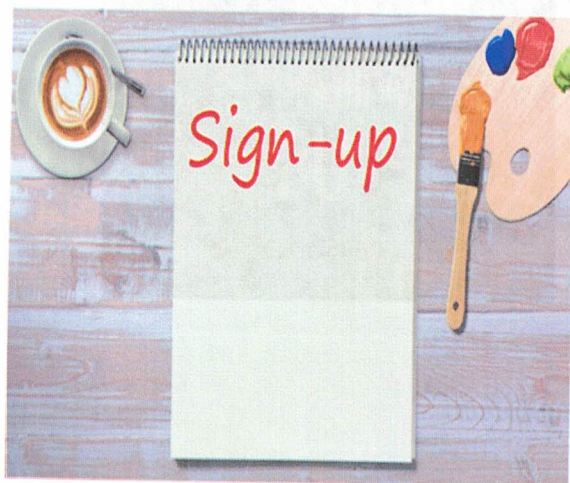
Prepare a double batch of soup.

Setup and clean up.

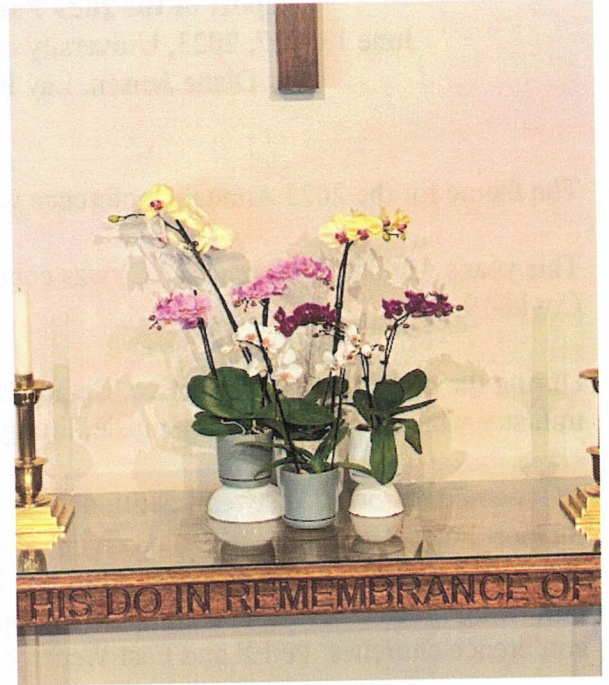
Come and participate in fellowship

Sign up at : https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cspwd_nP1fifWg2cuy2TVNC0AyAph48HnMclAMM4/edit?usp=sharing

We look forward to seeing you at lunch, also known as Savior's Soup!



Orchid beauties provided by the Broughton VanCamp Family as a memorial of Jim Broughton 1930-2023



Beautiful arrangement by Billie Fitch



Diane Johnson outdid herself!





Report of the 2023 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference

June 13 – 17, 2023, University of Puget Sound and Mason UMC, Tacoma WA
by Diane Jensen, Lay Representative to Annual Conference

The theme for the 2023 Annual Conference was “Go and Do Likewise” based on Luke 10: 30-37.

This year's Annual Conference (AC) was conducted in hybrid form due to continuing concerns about Covid-19.

During the opening worship service, Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth offered a sermon focused on lay ministry which was followed by music, liturgy and Holy Communion.

AC members processed several petitions that had been previously assigned to the Administrative Support Focus Group, as well as receiving reports from the Disaster Response Ministries, the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation, the Rules Committee and the proposed 2024 budget. Following much discussion, the budget was approved the following day. It was voted to close two conference churches: Pe Ell and East Wenatchee – Trinity.

The first memorial service since 2019 honored the passing of saints during the last year.

Pastor Scott Rosecrans was one of many that were recognized for their service in various forms of credentialed lay ministry which included certified lay ministers, Hispanic lay ministers, licensed local pastors, home missionaries and deaconesses.

Retiring clergy were celebrated and honored for the many things that they have accomplished and awards were given to those who are celebrating 50 and 60 years in ordained ministry.

Reports were presented by several boards and agencies highlighting the excellent work that they do. Details of all reports will be found in the 2023 AC Journal. Recipients of the Peace with Justice Award and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award were announced by the Board of Church and Society and Archives and History celebrated Fern Prairie UMC for its 150 years of ministry.

The Vitality Commission reported that it was formed 18 months ago and charged with exploring the possibility of an area-wide decision-making body to oversee innovation and vitality work, but have since withdrawn legislation that would have established that team.

Bishop Bridgeforth presented his first Bishop's Award to Tom Wilson, retiring Faith Foundation NW Executive Director who has served in that position for 24 years. Jim Truitt, Greater Northwest Area Disaster Response Coordinator was honored as he retires from his role.

The commissioning of two provisional elders, the ordination of one deacon and seven elders was celebrated on the last day of annual conference.

A shared worship that was live-streamed to members of the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest conferences concluded this year's annual conference.

The 2024 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference will meet June 13-16 in the Seven Rivers District.



Discover Someone's Hidden Gifts

Engage anyone: friends, family and even strangers on a deeper level by helping them find their hidden gifts by asking a few simple questions.

Gifts of the head: Ask them about something that they know about? For example, if you notice something, you can ask them about it or ask them what they like to read. Have they read any cool articles or books? If they ever thought about teaching something, what would it be?

If you're nervous to ask about them, you can tell them about an article that you read or something that piqued your interest on the news or a program that you watched on television. Before you know it, you will have connected beyond a basic polite greeting.

Gifts of the hands: You can also ask them about something that they like to do in their free time. Ask them what they are good at making such as hobbies, interests, etc. When they tell you, affirm them by acknowledging their wonderful gifts and be curious about learning more about their skills and talents. You will be off and running in no time. Don't be afraid to share something that you like to make or do.

Gifts of the heart: Another thing you can use as a conversation starter is to ask them about something they care about so much that it moves them to action, what makes them happy or brings them joy.

These are all great ways to not only start learning about each other, we connect, and discover each other's hidden gifts.

Now go and find someone's hidden gifts—it is fun!



Who Is My Neighbor?



We have our very own Barbie Twins

Lill Tiller/ Lynn Marlow

Sunday worship with our new singers enhancing the service





Parking Lot Needs Help!

In Paul's letters to the people of the Roman Church in Romans 1:7 he reminds us that: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ" and in Romans 8:28 Paul also writes: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose".

Jesus is here with us at Community United Methodist Church, Jesus is calling us to serve the homeless, the hungry, and people struggling simply to meet their daily needs.

We have responded with support to area food banks, The General Store (the clothes closet and the food pantry) and now Saviors' Soup (the soup kitchen). We have been blessed with wholehearted support from neighbors, other churches, and other local organizations by way of donations of money, goods, and volunteers.

We are blessed!

All these blessings have us looking at the safety of our guests: donors, volunteers, and the people we serve. CUMC has invested in an upgraded kitchen, an upgraded boiler, and an upgraded sanctuary and **it is time to invest in something else: An upgraded parking lot!** It is time. We want everyone who participates in our ministry to serve God's people in need to be safe and **the current condition of the parking lot is not safe.**

An upgraded parking lot will cost close to \$75,000. The Church has some funds to get started and we have been blessed by anonymous donors who will match any gifts we receive up to \$15,000—this is a good start, but we need you.

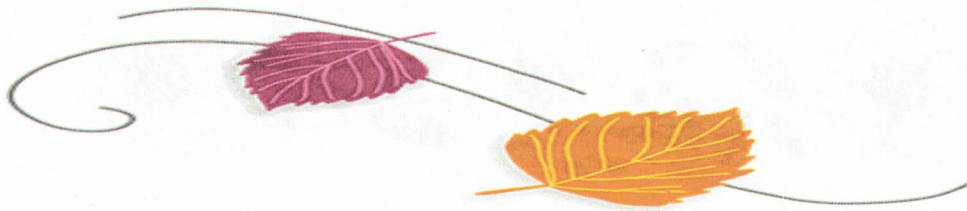
We need your help keep our donors, volunteers, and guests safe in our parking lot. Please prayerfully consider making a gift or pledge to help upgrade the parking lot and keep people safe!

Please consider making a gift or a pledge to help upgrade the parking lot to keep donors, volunteers, and visitors safe! Please see the enclosed pledge card and return it to the church by September 3, 2023.

Thank you and bless you for your careful consideration to support this urgent and important project to keep people who visit Community United Methodist Church safe!

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Pledge Cards are available in the Narthex or call Kathi and she can mail you one. We will be blessing pledges and gifts for the parking lot fund on Sunday, September 3, 2023.

Yes, I want to keep donors, volunteers, and the people we serve safe!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

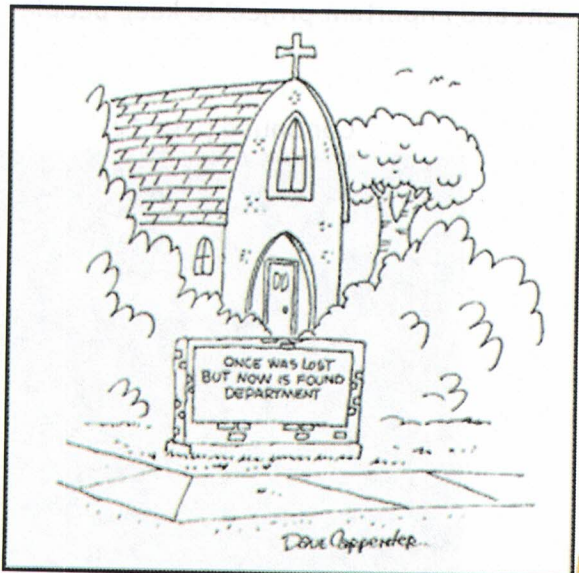
I will help with my prayers I will help with fund raising efforts.

*I will help by making a pledge of _____ per year/quarter/month/week.

I will help with a one-time gift of _____.

I have other ideas to share, please contact me at _____.

**Please know that you can change your pledge at any time; just notify the Financial Secretary, Betty Prentice.*





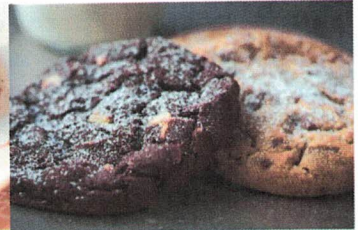
Attention All Bakers

Bakers are needed to [Bake-for-a-Cause](#) and help raise much needed funds for the parking lot paving project.

We are planning to hold a Silent Dessert Auction once a month during the fellowship time after church and we need bakers to show off their baking skills.

We need pies, cakes, brownies and more! Any dessert will be welcome and popular.

The Silent Dessert Auction will be held on the last Sunday of each month starting in September. Please let Lori Oberlander (at 360 620-0809) know if you are ready to help bake to improve our parking lot.



Local

MISSION
of the
MONTH

CUMC supports three local organizations: Bayside, Tri-Area Food Bank and ECHHO. We donate a minimum of \$500 each month to one of these three organizations in addition to donations collected from membership. CUMC also donates \$100 each month to UMCOR as well to aid in natural disaster relief efforts. Any donations from church members that are designated to UMCOR are included each month.

2023



Financial Report

2023 July Year To Date **7/31/2023**

Income	\$97,415.65
Pledges & Identifiable Donors	\$66,458.32
Other Income	\$30,957.33
Expenses	\$84,290.55
Apportionments	\$9,308.64
Local Program Ministry	\$4,122.97
Operating Expenses	\$35,686.54
Personnel Expenses	\$35,172.40
Difference	\$13,125.10



You are needed!

- Do you **have a head** or **background** for finance, banking, or bookkeeping?
- Do you like doing research and being organized?
- Do you have a little free time? (3 or 4 hours a week on your schedule).

If you said yes to any of the above questions, Community United Methodist Church needs you!


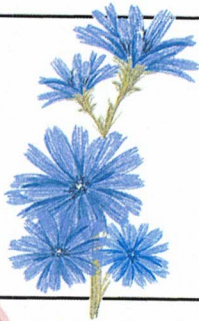



We need help with tracking and reporting our financial standing on a monthly basis, helping to make decisions that are financially sound, and making recommendations to ensure we maintain good stewardship of the funds we are entrusted with. Please prayerfully consider serving in a role to help with the financial standing of our beloved church. Call Scott at 360 385-1579 or Lori at 360 620-0809.



Please Help!



September ,2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri 1	Sat 2
						General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm Saviors Soup 10:30-1:30p
10:00am Wor-ship ³ 11:15am Fellow-ship	Alzheimer Support Group 10:30-noon In classroom	Designated Drivers 4:30p		Good Neighbor Experiment. Zoom 7-8pmm 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting UWF 10:00 Pot Luck.		General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm Saviors Soup 10:30-1:30p
10:00am Wor-ship ¹⁰ 11:15am Fellow-ship		Designated Drivers 4:30p		7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library) GNE Zoom 7-8p		General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm Saviors Soup 10:30-1:30p
10:00am Wor-ship ¹⁷ 11:15 Fellow-shio		Designated Drivers 4:30pm	Admin Counsel zoom meeting at 6:30pm Deadline for News-letter articles	Admin Coun-til 6:30pm (Zoom) 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library) GNE Zoom 7-8p		General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm Saviors Soup 10:30-1:30p
Baby Kai Bap-tism ²⁴ Dessert Auction	Pastor on va-cation until 10/22/2023	Designated Drivers 4:30pm				
				October		

September 2023

BIRTHDAYS

2: Joan Flowers
 15: Lori Oberlander
 18 Doris Unruh
 20: Rubie Horton
 23: Lil Tiller
 27; Julie Boggs/Leona Long
 30: Dick Shuff

ALTAR FLOWERS

3: Marcy Wootan
 10: Billie Fitch
 17: Liz Hazen
 24:

COMMUNION SERVERS

COUNTERS

3: Lori & Kathi
 10: Debbie & Connie
 17: Marsha & Diane
 24: Lynn & Betty

GREETERS

HOSPITALITY

LITURGISTS

3: John Sweet
 10: Billie Fitch
 17: Liz Hazen
 24: Laurie Engelbeck

SUNDAY SCHOOL

USHERS

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

Sept3mber 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
Exod 3:1-15	Exod 12:1-14	Exod 14:19-31	Exod16:2-15
Ps 105:1-6,23-26	Ps 149: or Ps 148	Exod 15: 1b-11,20-21	Ps 105:1-6,37-45 or
Rom 12:9-12	Rom 13:8-14	Rom 14:1-12	Ps 78
Matt 16:21-28	Matt 18: 15-20	Matt 18:21-35	Phil 1:21-30
			Matt 20:1-16

Being the Somebodies Who Do Something In Jesus' Name

Sept 5, 2023 Upper Room

Shaped by Christ

Clad in his favorite work gloves, my husband's strong hands have dug gardens, shoveled snow, and fixed cars. The worn leather gloves are permanently curved in the shape of his hands. But when they are laid aside on the shelf, no matter how much they resemble my husband's hands, the gloves are lifeless.

Like a glove molds to a hand, my soul is shaped by the light of Christ within it. This is what I desire, but sometimes I get distracted by my own agenda. I draw near to God by focusing on scripture and listening prayerfully. God's power restores my spirit and works through me to accomplish that which I cannot do on my own.

It takes time to break in a new pair of gloves, yet with use the leather gradually forms to the hand's unique shape. When our soul is formed to the shape of our indwelling Savior, we can work toward God's purpose of our life. **It is a close and Loving Partnership.**

Read 1 John 4:12-16



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:
8:00am- 2pm, Wednesday/Thurs
8-10 Friday
Web Site: www.HadlockChurch.com

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