

CREATING CONNECTIONS

1

Community United Methodist Church



December 2023

Those People

Part 1

One of the more impactful stories about Jesus is really pretty short and if you're reading Matthew's gospel you might breeze right past it without giving it much thought. I know I have. In the 9th chapter of Matthew's gospel there is a short story of how Matthew came to be called as a disciple. Jesus had just healed a man who was paralyzed and was continuing on his way when he spotted Matthew sitting at a kiosk collecting taxes for Rome which didn't make him very popular among his fellow Jews. Jesus walked up and told Matthew to follow him, which he did. Presumably, Jesus' reputation preceded him, and Matthew already knew something about this wandering rabbi. In any event, they went to Matthew's house where they shared a meal with many of Matthew's friends, which Matthew himself describes as other tax collectors and sinners. When the Pharisees, who had been watching Jesus closely, saw this they asked one of Jesus' other disciples: *Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?* Apparently, the Pharisees said it loud enough for Jesus to hear and respond: *Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and learn what this means: I want mercy and not sacrifice. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners.* Not to second guess Jesus, but I think he missed a golden opportunity, a teachable moment, by not inviting the Pharisees to sit down and eat with them,

to get to know their neighbor. After all, they were the religious authorities in Israel. I guess Jesus didn't want his host to feel uncomfortable.

But that wasn't the point Jesus was trying to make at the time. The Pharisees were all about the rules and regulations that were in place regarding worship and the litany of sacrifices that went along with their self-perpetuating institution. Mercy wasn't high on their list of things to do, especially if it involved mercy for "those people." And I think that's the danger we face today. We are always in danger of behaving like a Pharisee, being a little too judgmental, thinking a little too much of ourselves, and not wanting to associate with "those people." Not wanting to show the stranger some mercy, some compassion, some love of neighbor.

I say all this, to say that I have had a lifetime of dealing with people at their lowest whether having to arrest them as a police officer, prosecute them as one charged with a crime, or defend them as their attorney. And, as I have said from the pulpit many times over the last seven years, I have gotten to know some of them quite well and have learned much about the human condition from listening to their stories. And it's listening to their stories and learning from them that I write about. Yes, I know I am chatty, but I actually do listen. Sometimes.

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Part:2 .. On Saturday the 18th of November we held our Thanksgiving church dinner which we haven't been able to do for several years due to the pandemic. Because our Summer picnic was such a success we decided to reach out again to our neighbors and General Store clients and invite them to eat with us. The turnout was great with a nice mixture of church members and people who have gotten to know us through our Saturday mission effort. We even had some first-time visitors. I was telling Becky, our fourth Sunday accompanist, that these folks were really pretty interesting and often had some amazing stories to tell. We got our plates and sat down at a table with two of our guests and struck up a friendly, non-intrusive, conversation. Before long, our guests were sharing their stories and the lady sitting opposite Becky really opened up about the path she had walked and was currently walking. What was remarkable about her story was how spiritual it was, and you could tell by what and how she said it that in her earlier life she was no stranger to church. Somewhere along the way she had left the path but was slowly working her way back and she felt comfortable sharing her story with two people she believed were Christians and apparently were non-judgmental. My conversation with my table mate was a little different. He gave me the basics and let me know that he played the guitar at a church down in Quilcene. I thought his name was familiar to me and remembered Teresa mentioning him as a client at the senior table we sponsor at the Quilcene Food Bank. Anyway, after we broke from our meal, we went up to sing a few songs as our guests sat and listened. When it was over, I showed him my guitar and invited him to take it for a spin. He did and for about an hour or so he played songs from memory and in between each song he shared a little bit of his story. He too had grown up in the church and told of when he was in California and was a part of the Jesus Revolution. He played in many church bands and came close to the ministry almost taking a church but then things changed, and his path took a different direction. But he was thankful now to be back on the right path.

This really got me to thinking about Jesus inviting himself to Matthew's house where he sat and ate with "those" people while the Pharisees looked on in disfavor. I think we can safely assume that Jesus' dinner companions also grew up in the church like many of us but had strayed choosing a darker path and no longer felt comfortable going to church where they would be made to feel uncomfortable. Yet they had no problem accepting Matthew's invitation to come and eat with this rabbi who

they had heard was a little different, not what they were used to, not a Pharisee who would judge them. They were comfortable sharing their stories with Jesus who came to call the sinners, the fallen, the lost and searching back to him.

And that, I hope, is what we offer here at Community United Methodist Church. A place where "those" people feel comfortable, welcome, and accepted. A place where they can share their stories with someone who will listen and not judge. As Becky was leaving, I stopped her and said: "I told you so. These people really do have some interesting stories to share if we'll just sit and listen."

A CHRIST-CENTERED
CHRISTMAS





Thanksgiving Celebration Success!

By Lori Oberlander

Inspired by the Good Neighbor Experiment team wanting to reach out to get to know our neighbors, the team held a Summer Celebration that was a huge success!

We thought that Thanksgiving was a great time to celebrate again with our neighbors and get to know them more. We decided to hold it on November 18, 2023. The Celebration was a big success and we got to meet and know more about our neighbors. Our celebration had all the best of any Thanksgiving feast, with turkey, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and all of trimmings.

We served approximately 60 people from the community, the congregation and more! There was plenty of fellowship and getting to know each other.

I personally was thanked at least three times for the traditional Thanksgiving meal and the fellowship. One of our guests said that he had prayed for a Thanksgiving Meal for two years.

It was a truly a blessing for everyone!





Now that looks like a delicious breakfast. Who says men can't cook ?



Men's Breakfast /Saviors Soup





Stunning Flowers are provided nearly every
Week from some truly gifted ladies





United
Women
in Faith

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU

To: our regular UWF meeting with an “all Hostess” potluck

Date: **December 7th, 2023**

Time: **10:00 am**

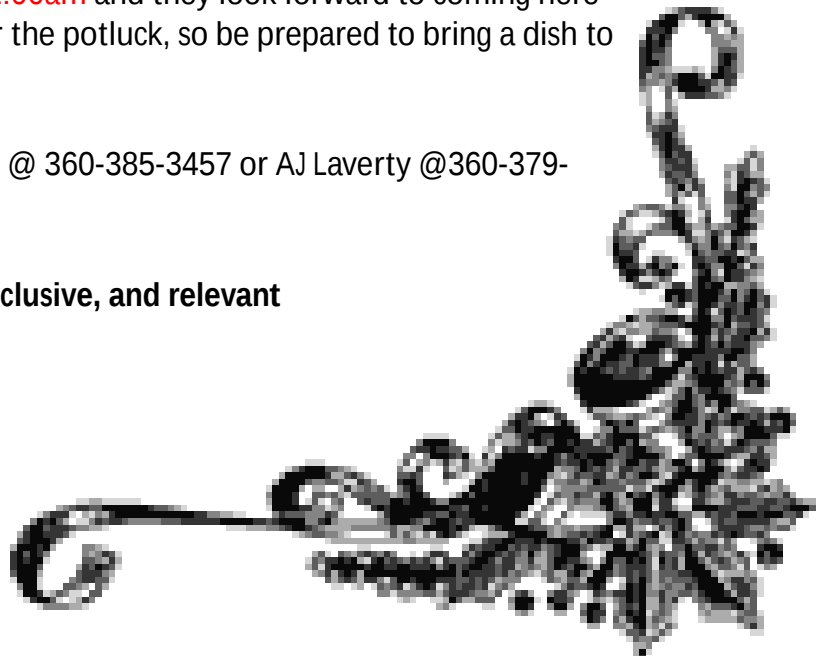
Location: 130 Church Lane at the Community United Methodist Church

The Choral Belles will be performing a varied selection of holidays songs. The Choral Belles have been performing at venues ranging from care centers to the Port Gamble Store. The Port Ludlow Choral Belles have been doing this for over 20 years and our own Sheila Harwood is the director!

They are scheduled to perform at **11:00am** and they look forward to coming here each year! They will be joining us for the potluck, so be prepared to bring a dish to share for a minimum of 20 people.

Please feel free to contact Pat Chase @ 360-385-3457 or AJ Laverty @360-379-6386

United Women of Faith: modern, inclusive, and relevant





Saturday Soup Kitchen: Savior's Soup

Thank you to all the volunteers that have provided soup and fellowship for November and a very special thank you to all those who helped with the Thanksgiving Celebration.

We are ready to start scheduling volunteers for December. Many of the volunteers have expressed how easy and fun volunteering at the soup kitchen is, some have excelled at providing fellowship with our visitors and have provided some great tasting soups! THANK YOU!

We still have openings on December 9th & 16th for volunteers to make soup, serve, and provide hard-boiled eggs. If you would like to sign up, visit the **signup sheet in the Narthex** or click on the link below. If you would like to help, please contact Lori at 360 620-0809.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Csppwd__nP1fifWg2cuy2TVNC0AyApth4BHnMclAMM4/edit

Sign up for fun, fellowship, and soup!



**SOUP
KITCHEN**

Volunteer Sign Up Sheet!

December 2023



Silent Dessert Auction



A special thank you to the bakers and dessert makers who helped make the October Silent Dessert Auction a big success. Together we raised \$235.00 to help make our parking lot safe! The running total raised to date to support making the parking lot safe is \$390.00. Thank you everyone for your support.

We have three bakers lined up for December who are planning to make some yummy homemade desserts. You can look forward to:



- Fruit Cake
- Mini Loaves of sweet bread
- Sweet Potato – Pecan Pie
- And more

Next Auction is December 10th...Mark your Calendars!!

Get ready to bid on some scrumptious homemade desserts that you can take home and share with your family and friends.

Continued page 9





Continued from page 8... If you are interested in baking for future dessert auctions, please let me, Lori Oberlander, know at **360 620-0809**. Be creative, we love pies, cakes, brownies, sweet breads—whatever you like to bake, we like to eat!

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Our community has taken notice of the work we are doing to provide for the least of us. This large donation for our Food Pantry was collected and given to the Pastor at his last hair cut. Either he's waiting too long between cuts or the folks at the Victorian Clipper Barber Shop were especially generous!!

Special Thank you to Debbie Hinton, owner of the Victorian Clipper Barber Shop



## Jean Schubert

### BOOTS

First there was just one. He'd been eagerly waiting for the 'free' Saturday General Store to open, having arrived a whole hour ahead of time. How he'd heard about this ministry, in which I participate regularly, operating out of Community United Methodist, I don't know. He appeared to be packing everything he owned, and left his load just outside the door, as instructed, before coming inside. He was desperately in need of a pair of boots or shoes to replace the pair of 'next to nothing' covering his dirty feet.

He was a positive and talkative guy, exuberantly sharing his reclaimed faith in God and new outlook on life.

Given a new pair of socks, he tried on his very limited options and was thrilled we had a pair that fit him. My coworker sprayed them with water repellent to better withstand the weather. He also spotted a pair a size and a half larger and thought of his friend, being very concerned for the state of the other guy's feet. While the spray was drying on his new boots, off he went to bring in his friend and a third young man. And yes, this taller shyer fellow was in desperate need as well. He was reluctant to take off his wet sneakers because, he said, his feet smelled really bad. We brushed off his concern, and initiated the process with another new pair of dry socks. He said his feet had been wet for a month, and from the looks of them, I didn't doubt it. But, oh, the look on his face as he relaxed into the process. He also ended up with a sturdy pair of dry boots. And, somehow, we managed to have a pair that worked for the third young man as well! And after he'd laced and tied them he stood up and

literally jumped for joy! It brought back memories of my kids wearing their brand new shoes when they were small...the better for running and jumping and all. 😊 Who did they belong to? Whose little kids had they been? What had their lives thus far entailed? How messed up were they? What do they need to do differently? Once again, I don't know. But I do know all three of them were extremely grateful! And when the taller guy, ever so gently, extended his hand in an expression of deepest thanks, and looked me directly in the eye as he did so, I thought of Jesus... remembering his words found in Matthew 25. 'For I was hungry...thirsty...a stranger... naked and in need of clothing...Truly I tell you just as you did it unto one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it unto me.'

It was all about 'the feet' that day! It was like a 'foot washing' without a basin or a towel! Dirty wet feet were transformed into dancing feet...Happy Thanks-giving Feet! Our tired old feet felt like dancing a little too!

Jean Schubert





### Seen around CUMC:

Deer playing “TAG” across the church yard in the rain

Darker days and afternoons. Low Foggy Days

More craftsmanship from Don Olsen (check out pastors new work table)

Kathi getting tech support so the Sermons are back on the website

Fantastic donations to the food and clothing store

The Spirit Singers( formally the Pastorettes) practicing for the holiday season.

A blessed Thanksgiving fest with our neighbors and church members

The return of the back hallway...Pastors office stuff is back in his office.

Our very own Bell Choir performing for a church service

Jerry Childs joining the church. WELCOME Jerry!

Christmas Wreath and Tree to welcome the Season

Thought for the day: My mom told me if you ever feel like God isn't there, remember that the teacher is always silent during the test, and that stuck with me! Unknown Author





My daughter in law and I were talking Christmas gift lists today and I said, "Where did this year go???" And she wisely said, "If you find it, please let me know!" That's my holiday season so far! 😊

I hope you all had a festive and happy Thanksgiving! Now it's time to get the Christmas bags ready to give to our neighbors at Margaret's Village and Peter's Place, and our parsonage renters, once again. For some of these people, our gifts and remembrances are the only Christmas cheer they receive. And at least one lovely lady in the apartments can't wait for her cookies every year! We make 30 small households very, very happy.

I have taken inventory of what we still have and it appears that we need about 15 medium to large Christmas gift bags (big enough to hold cookie bags, candy bags, a pair of socks, drink mixes, and any other goodies we come up with) that measure about 10X12 or 14 inches. We have enough little mesh bags for the candy. And we have a few of the Rubbermaid containers (from the dollar store) for cookies, but will either need more of these or festive little baked goods bags that we can pack about 6-12 of our famous cookies in.

Sooooo....now we have to organize what we'd like to put into the bags with the cookies, candies, and drink mixes. Anyone have any ideas? Last year's bags turned out wonderfully. We included cookies, candy, warm socks, pretty little angel ornaments, drink mixes, rain ponchos, and tooth health kits (brushes, paste, floss). Other things we have given in the past include water bottles, notepads and pens, and flashlights. Another suggestion that was made last year was small coin purses. As we did last year, if anyone wants to buy something small and useful for the bags, please check in with me first, but you are welcome to do that. And, if anyone wants to go shopping to get things we need, again, check with me first, but you can do that and get reimbursed. We will need our fabulous bakers to each make 2 dozen small, non-delicate cookies for the bags. Finally, we need to pick a day to stuff and deliver the bags. I have a crazy schedule due to music performances and rehearsals, but I can offer Tuesday, December 12 in the afternoon or anytime Thursday, December 14. This is the usual week for this activity.

I know this is a lot take in all at once, especially during this always busy season. Just think about it all and we will talk about it at our December meeting. I will have a sign up sheet for cookie baking, buying drink mixes, packing, and delivery at that time. We can discuss what else we might want to put in the bags, too.

Thanks everyone for helping with this vital project for our neighborhood! It is such fun handing out the bags and taking time to chat with our neighbors and get to know them better. Doing so is just as important as giving them a tangible gift; it is the gift of your time. That someone cares enough to stop to talk to them and see what they are up to means the world to them, especially to those who have no family in the area at the holidays. You can call 650-703-3781 Or [marsha@schimother.com](mailto:marsha@schimother.com)

Please let me know your thoughts – I'll gather ideas and we will firm things up on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks for everything you all do!

Marsha Hamacher





Pastor Office is coming together nicely, thanks to Don Olsen and his amazing talents as a wood worker & carpenter!



### Please Note!!

**Christmas Eve** is on a Sunday this year. We will do our Christmas Eve service combined with our morning service at **10am**. There will be a potluck immediately following the morning service. Please come and celebrate the birth of our Savior and enjoy special music and fellowship. We so look forward to seeing you all there. Questions? Call the office 360-385-1579 or speak with the Pastor.



Have you ever dreamed of all the things you could do with a deluxe air fryer?



This Air Fryer is deluxe, an Emeril Lagasse (the famous chef from Emeril Live), Power Airfryer 360XL Deluxe it has it all. You can rotisserie, make pizza, bake, crisp, and more.

EMERIL LAGASSE

HOME BRANDS

INCLUDES SPECIFICATIONS USE & INFO HOW-TO VIDEOS FAQS GUARANTEE CUSTOMER CARE

**Includes**

Rotisserie Set

Rotisserie Stand (Optional)

Recipe Book

And this gem of a kitchen appliance is available to you! You may have seen it sitting in the church kitchen being under utilized. It is a wonderful kitchen appliance, it just isn't needed for our church ministries.

It is for Sale for \$200.00 to help raise money to help keep our parking lot safe. It comes with instruction manual, a recipe book and the above pictured accessories. If you are interested, please call Lori at 360 620-0809.

Local



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



## CUMC

## Summary of All Donations by Category Between September 1– September 30, 2023

| Category                                    | Amount      | #Donations | #Donors |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| General Store                               | \$170.00    | 2          | 2       |
| Missions                                    | \$100.00    | 2          | 2       |
| Non-pledge gifts                            | \$145.00    | 5          | 3       |
| Parking lot                                 | \$2,620.00  | 16         | 13      |
| Pledges                                     | \$ 6,084.00 | 34         | 21      |
| Quilcene Sr Table                           | \$193.00    | 1          | 1       |
| Other Non-deductible                        | \$200.00    | 8          | 8       |
| Totals                                      | \$ 9,749.50 | 61         |         |
| Total distinct donors across all categories |             |            | 33      |



# December , 2023



|                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                           |                                                                       |                                                                 |                                                                                    | Fri 1                                                                                 | Sat 2                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                           |                                                                       |                                                                 |                                                                                    |                                                                                       | General Store<br>Hours: 10am to 1pm<br><br>Saviors Soup<br>10:30-1:30p       |
| 3<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:15am Fellowship                                                                                                  | 4<br>Alzheimer Support<br>Group 10:30-noon<br>In classroom                                | 5<br>Designated Drivers<br>4:30p<br><br>Bell Choir 11:00-<br>12:30p   | 6                                                               | 7<br>7-8pm Al-Anon<br>Meeting<br><br><b>Rogue Yoga<br/>10am-1:00pm</b>             | 8                                                                                     | 9<br>General Store<br>Hours: 10am to 1pm<br><br>Saviors Soup<br>10:30-1:30p  |
| 10<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:15am Fellowship<br><br><b>Dessert Auction<br/>after church</b>                                                  | 11<br>Pt Hadlock Caregiv-<br>er Support group<br>10:30-Noon                               | 12<br>Designated Drivers<br>4:30p<br><br>Bell Choir 11:00-<br>12:30p  | 13                                                              | 14<br>7-8pm Al-Anon<br>Meeting<br>(Library)<br><br><b>Rogue Yoga<br/>10am-1:pm</b> | 15                                                                                    | 16<br>General Store<br>Hours: 10am to 1pm<br><br>Saviors Soup<br>10:30-1:30p |
| 17<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:15 Fellowshipio                                                                                                 | 18                                                                                        | 19<br>Designated<br>Drivers 4:30pm<br><br>Bell Choir 11:00-<br>12:30p | 20<br><br><br><b>Deadline for<br/>Newsletter arti-<br/>cles</b> | 21<br><br>Rogue Yoga<br>10am-1pm<br><br>7-8pm Al Anon<br>meeting Library           | 22                                                                                    | 23<br>General Store<br>Hours: 10am to 1pm<br><br>Saviors Soup<br>10:30-1:30p |
| 24<br><br><b>Christmas Eve<br/>Service is com-<br/>bined with our<br/>regular service<br/>Pot Luck to fol-<br/>low the 10am<br/>service</b> | 25<br> | 26<br>Designated Drivers<br>4:30pm                                    | 27                                                              | 28<br>Rogue Yoga<br>10a-1pm<br><br>Al-Anon meeting<br>7-8pm Library                | 29                                                                                    | 30<br>General Store<br>Hours: 10am-1pm<br><br>Saviors Soup<br>10:30a-1:30p   |
|                                                           | <b>HAPPY HOL-<br/>IDAYS AND<br/>NEW YEAR<br/>TO ALL</b>                                   |                                                                       |                                                                 |                                                                                    |  |                                                                              |

**BIRTHDAYS**

1. Larry Sanderson  
14: Sara Davis

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Will be provided by the Worship Team this month

**COMMUNION SERVERS****COUNTERS**

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

**GREETERS****HOSPITALITY****LITURGISTS**

3: John Sweet  
10: Billie Fitch  
17: Laurie Engelbeck  
25: Liz Hazen  
31: Kahi VanCamp

**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.

**December LECTIONARY READINGS**

December 3  
Isa 64:1-9  
Ps.80:1-7,17-19  
1Cor 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

December 10  
Isa 40:1-11  
Ps.85:1-2,8-13  
2Pet 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

December 17  
Isa 61:1-4,8-11  
Ps 126  
1Thess 5:16-24  
John 1:5-8,19-28

December 24  
2 Sam 7:1-11,16  
Luke 1:47-55  
Rom 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

December 31  
Isa 61:10-62:3  
Ps 148  
Gal 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40

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

12/20/23 Upper Room by  
Ken Claar

## What Can I Give?

Every Christmas I get a little depressed. In this season, Christians do many things to make life brighter for others. But I can't do the majority of them since my age prevents me from driving or doing much physical activity.

One Christmas, however, I kept hearing the song "The Little Drummer Boy". It changed my focus from what I can't do to what I can. The lyrics of the song explain that the little drummer boy couldn't buy a gift or do something brave for the Christ child, so he didn't think he had anything to offer. But then he realized one thing he could do: play a song for Jesus. So I quit thinking about what I can't do and started concentrating on what I can do. I can pray; I can be cheerful and friendly to those I meet at the senior center; I can celebrate Jesus' birth at my church.

Sometimes God helps us to do things we don't realize we can. And God will honor even seemingly small actions if they are done to glorify God. So, like the little drummer boy who played his very best for Jesus, we can do our best and honor God with our Service.

Read Romans 12:3-8



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, Tues/Wednesday

8-10 Thursday

Web Site: [www.HadlockChurch.com](http://www.HadlockChurch.com)

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**

**Fellowship Time: 11:15 am**

Scott Rosekrans, Pastor

Email: [pastorscottrosekrans@gmail.com](mailto:pastorscottrosekrans@gmail.com)

Pastor's Office Hours:

10 am - 4pm