

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

1

Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen



December 2024

## Hope Happens Here

Earlier in November we had our annual Charge Conference which, in my opinion, was a thing of beauty. We held it at 11:00 a.m. on a Saturday when the General Store and Soup Kitchen were up and running. It gave our District Superintendent Mark Galang an opportunity to see us doing church as we do it best, meeting the needs of our neighbors who come to us for the necessities of life. In his remarks, Mark said he was reminded of what his grandmother said to him a long time ago when talking about her concept of church: "Hope Happens Here." While I was meeting with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee he wandered around the church visiting the clothes closet talking with a few of our volunteers as they went about their business and then he went up to the soup kitchen and observed soup being served to our neighbors as they sat and enjoyed their meal. He remarked that he holds us up as an example to other small churches of what can happen when you let the Spirit lead you where you are needed. It was very reaffirming and validating as he acknowledged that hope happens here at Community.

Hope Happens Here. That phrase really resonated with me to the point that it might be one of our mission statements taking its place right along SODS (Somebody Oughta Do Something). Hope does happen here for the countless people who show up on Saturday morning hoping to find some warm clothes, a blanket, a sleeping bag, new socks, waterproof boots, and other items you and I take for granted. They come looking for some food to help them get through the week because the price of groceries

is still too high. And they come to be acknowledged and recognized by our volunteers, our disciples, who greet them warmly and serve them with dignity and empathy. They like us because we genuinely like them. They come for the soup and fellowship. They are met by a friendly face who offers them a bowl of soup with an offer of seconds and a bowl to go. We know their names. We let them hang out for as long as they want. This is their safe place. This is where hope happens because they are made to feel welcomed and they get to experience the love of Jesus Christ whether they realize it or not.

But the hope that happens here is not just for those who come on Saturday, the hope is here for those of us who make up the congregation, those who also need to be seen, to be valued as a member of our church family. Those who might be going through a difficult time and just need to be around people who genuinely care, people who understand their difficulties and are willing to share in their burden. We are here so they will not lose heart, so they will not lose hope. And that's what the Apostle Paul was talking about in 2 Corinthians 4 when he said: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (16-18) Our ultimate hope when we are experiencing illness, persecution, loneliness, despair, rejection, or pain of any kind is the realization that this life is not all there is.

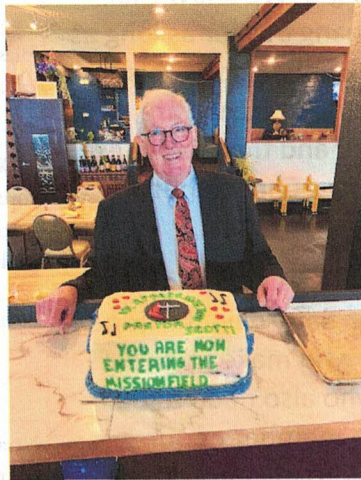
## Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen & Mark Galang DS	1/2
Altar Flowers	3
Blessing of the Pledges, and appeal	4
UWF Special performance by the Choral Belles/ potluck following	5
Savior's Soup News	6
Need Some Yummy Baked Goods?	7
Holiday Cookie sales	8
Music of all kinds	9
Seen Around CUMC	10
Treasures Report	11
A bit of humor	12
Financial Report	13
Birthdays	14
Calendar	15
Closing thoughts	16

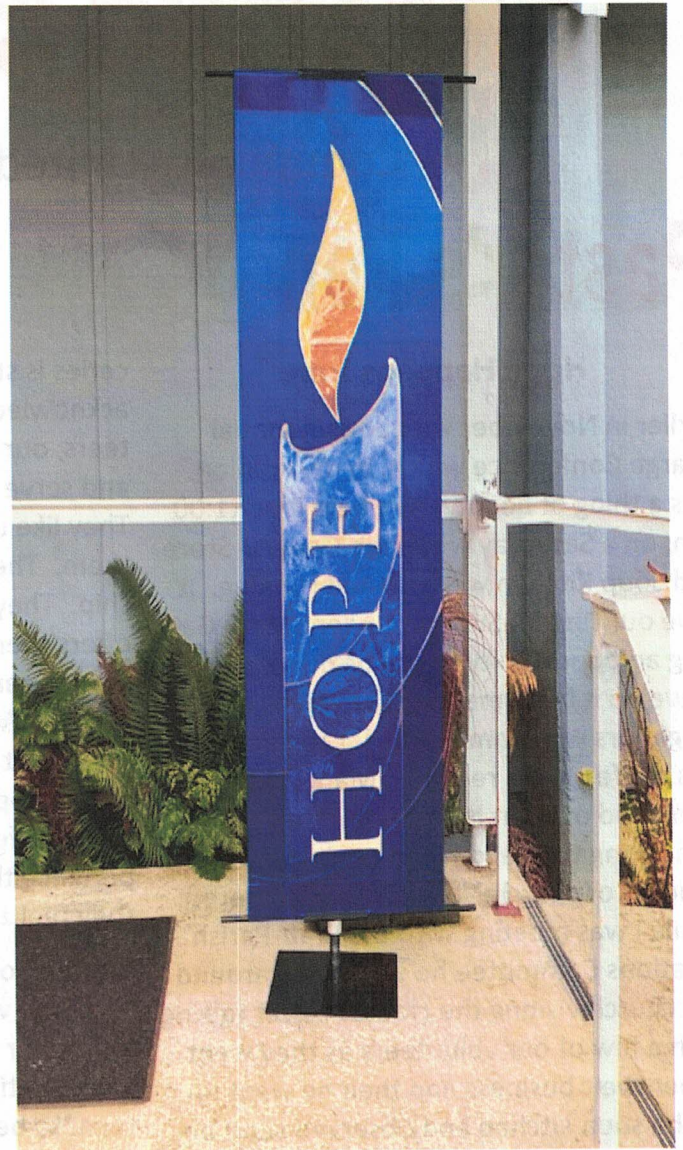


There is life after death. Knowing that we will live forever with God in a place without sin and suffering can help us live above the pain that we face in this life. It gives us hope.

So, as we celebrate the Season of Advent, the birth of our Savior, we look forward to his return and the promise of a life in eternity with him. But in the meantime, we have work to do, we have to make sure that all we do as a church gives people hope and that the hope we offer will lead to a relationship with Jesus Christ. Maybe it will lead to a deeper understanding of Christ for those, who already know him but have fallen away. So, during this time of celebration let's think about what we can do to make sure that hope happens here. That it can and will happen for anyone and everyone.



--Scott

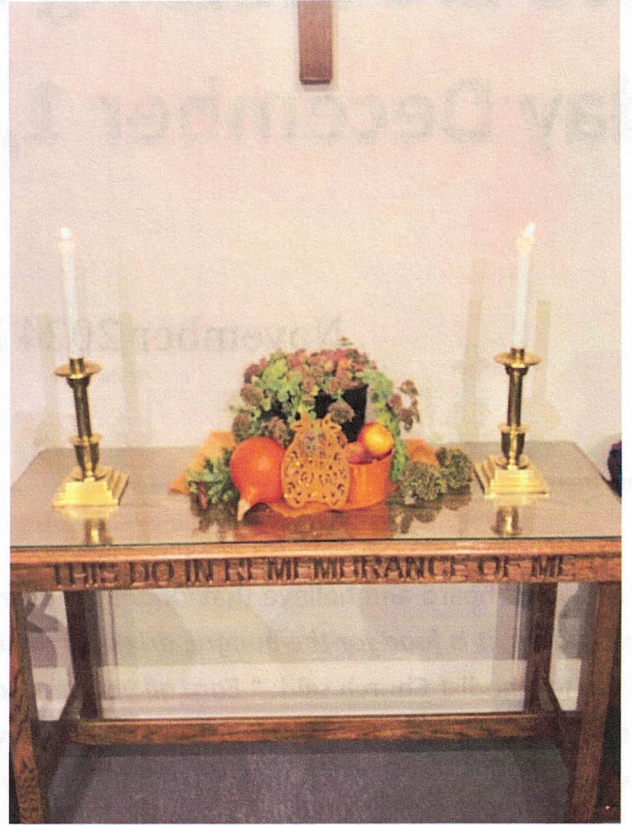


Charge conference  
was off to a good  
start with these  
leaders.

Mark Galang DS  
and  
Scott Rosekrans







Fall seems to bring out the best in our altar flower arrangers! Just lovely and they add so very much to the service! Thank you all !





# We are Blessing the pledges on Sunday December 1, 2024

## November 2024 Letter to Congregation

Dear friends in Christ,

We have all heard and believe that *"money is an excellent gift of God, answering the noblest ends. In the hands of his children, it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked"*. When John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church said: *"Earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can, we are called to ministry: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and provide drink for the thirsty, he is asking us to "do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can"*. For John Wesley, it was focusing upon what others did not have and how you could lovingly help them, with that, which you have been blessed. It was about priorities and what really mattered to God the Father.

What does this mean for us at Community United Methodist Church?

It means that we are called to do what we can to help people in need. To help our neighbors however we can.

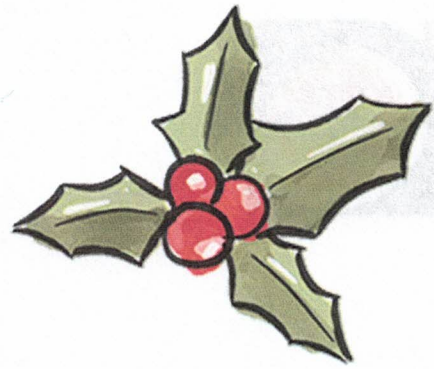
The good news is that is exactly what we are doing: providing for people in need. We provide everything from canned food, much needed warm clothes, and even pet food for their beloved companions. We also provide hot soup and a safe environment for fellowship. We have taken God's Words and the words of John Wesley into our hearts!







United  
Women  
in Faith



The United Women in Faith would like to invite all you to join us for our celebration of the Holidays with a concert performed by the **Pt Ludlow Choral Belles**.

When: **Thursday December 12, 2024**

Time: **11:00– 1:00**

Where: **Community United Methodist Church**

**There** will be a potluck for the Choral Belles and attendees immediately following the performance. Please bring a **large** dish to share

Questions: please call Pat Chase @ **360-385-3457** or

Gladys Heinzinger @ **360-608-6953**

*Hark*  
the  
Herald Angels  
*sing*





## Saturday Soup Kitchen: Savior's Soup

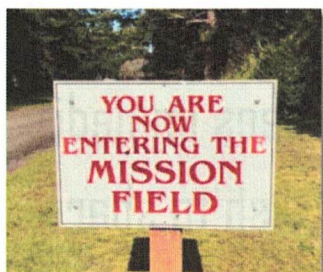


A special thank you to the Salish Sea Fellowship that meets in our sanctuary for taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday through February. Thank you for joining our ministry to serve God's people in need!

We are still serving around 25 to 30 bowls of soup per week.

The people we serve are so grateful for a hot meal. They love the fellowship and relaxed atmosphere! We receive at least one Thank you for what we are doing every week.

**Fun**



Many of our guests are taking soup home to a friend or to eat later in the day. One participant in the Tiny Home Village brings soup back to some of her neighbors that can't get out to get soup—her own ministry. We are so blessed!

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 have only one opening in December on December 7.



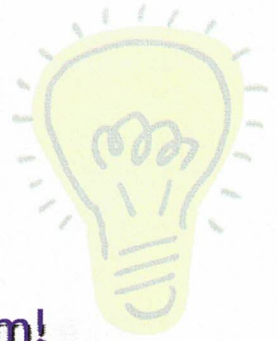
### Things to Remember:

- Bananas
- Hard Boiled Eggs
- No added Salt



If you would like to sign up, visit the signup sheet in the Narthex. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Lori at 360 620-0809 or email [Lori@tlobe.com](mailto:Lori@tlobe.com).

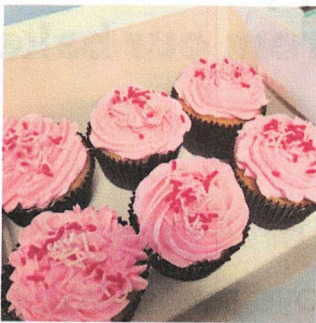




## Desserts When You Want Them!

### Our Baker's Are Ready to Bake!

\*\*\*update\*\*\* The requests keep coming and many of you have received personalized cakes. The Giant Cupcake seems to be a fan favorite. To Date, we have raised almost \$1500.00 to help pay off the parking lot! Thank you for your orders. I have no orders for December yet, so if you want a special cake or pie for the holidays, send me a text, email or phone call.



So far, we have made birthday cakes, cupcakes, simple wedding cakes, bars, and giant cupcakes. I personally have been having a blast making so many people happy with tasty treats that look great! It is also a great opportunity for me to get to know you! I have a baker, Billie stands by to make pies, we all know what a great pie baker she is and she can make lots of other things too.

If you ever want a homemade treat for your family gathering, a Birthday Cake, Retirement cake or other kind of treat for a party, just give me a call.

The Dessert Auction Bakers and ready to bake whenever you want and whatever you want.

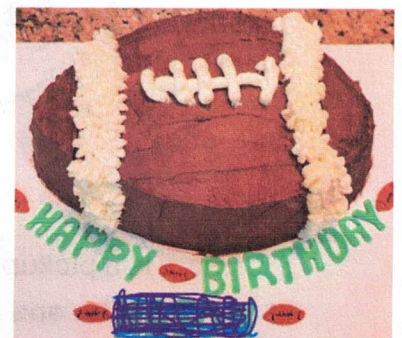
We can make:

Cakes, Cookies, Cupcakes, Giant Cupcakes and Jumbo Cupcakes. We can also make: Brownies, pies, bread, sweet breads like lemon, banana, and more.

We are willing to fulfil your request in exchange for a donation to help pay for the parking lot. We can give you an estimate or just leave it up to you to make a generous donation towards paying for our beautiful parking lot.

We would need at least one week's notice to prepare and would appreciate a donation of at least \$50.00 depending on the treat.

If you want something, just call Lori and she will coordinate with the volunteer bakers to fulfill your requests.



\*I removed identifying information for privacy purposes\*



# Cookies for Christmas

Made personally by Cake4Kids Bakers

**Cake4Kids™**

## Holiday Cookie Shop

**Celebrate the season and support Cake4Kids with your very own treats from our bakers!**

\$25 per cookie box

- Each box will contain a minimum of 15 assorted homemade cookies, baked with love by our volunteers
- Order through Sunday, December 8, while supplies last

Order  
today

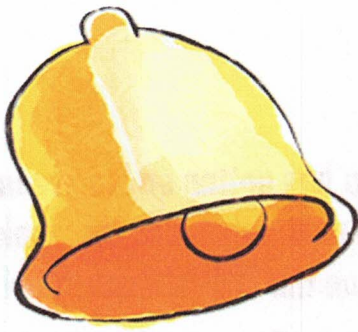


Cookie pickup:  
Sunday, December 15, 2024  
10am-1pm

There is a pickup location in Port Townsend and Bremerton. This is a fundraiser for Cake4Kids and a portion of each sale goes to our local chapter: Western Washington which serves children in Jefferson, Clallam and Kitsap Counties with birthday cakes who may not get a cake on their special day.



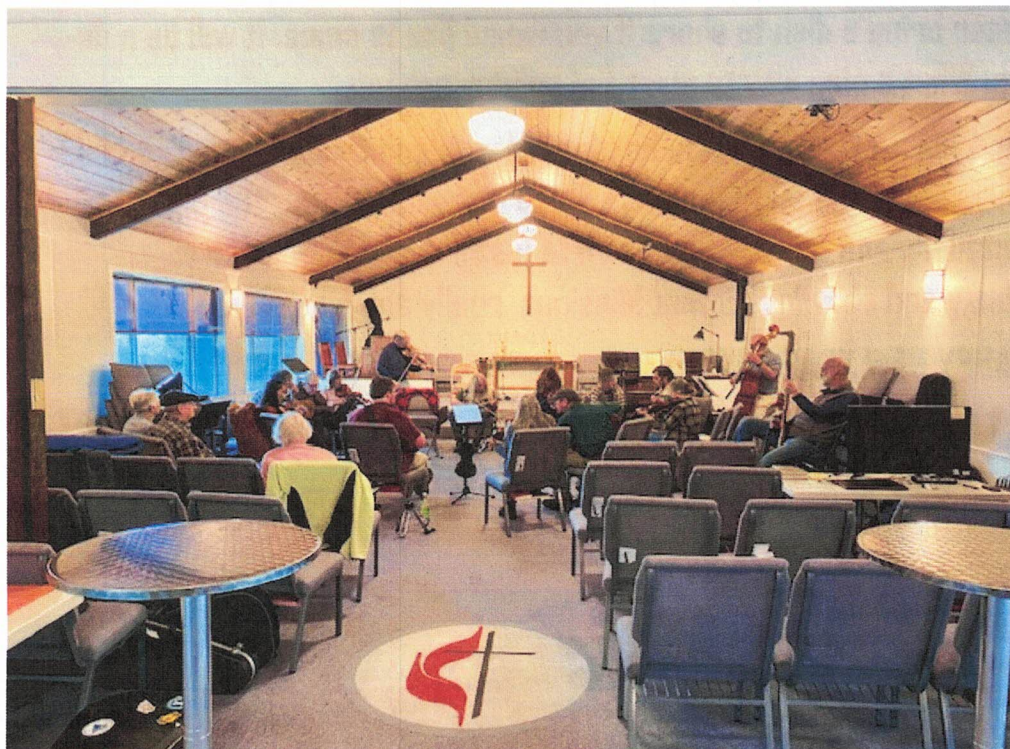




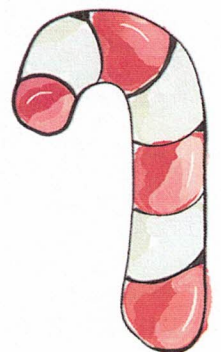
### CUMC's Bell Ringers, conducted by Marsha Hamacher.

Church members include, Billie Fitch, Connie Ross & Kathi VanCamp. We also have some wonderful gals from the community that just love to ring those bells, they include Paula Lalish, Kathy Luce, Marci Melvin & Margaret More

L-R, Kathi Marci, Paula, Kathy, Margaret, Connie & Billie



Music lightened the mood on last Saturdays rain, as our neighbors that partook of Saviors Soup were entertained by the fiddle group jamming in the sanctuary.. Fun was had by all and the group polished off the soup that was left and gave a sizeable donation in the "Jesus" cup





## Seen Around CUMC.....

We now have "7" Bell Ringers, freeing Marsha up to direct us. The group has gotten so big, we now practice in the Narthex! The group is working on some wonderful songs and techniques that make Bell Ringing more than just a hearing performance! Come check us out on the 15th of December!

Salish Sea Fellowship(SSF) is continuing with interesting series such as the Supreme Court, which wrapped up last month and this month is Comparing Cultures in Multiple Countries, and today they are offering a Making Bead Flag Pins in the Library. These are open to the congregation to attend as well.

Pastor Scott and the Admin team preparing for the Charge Conference on Saturday the 16th of November. It is also Savior Soup day, so the attendees are invited to have soup with our neighbors.

Jean prepping for a busy Saturday at the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet. She is a dedicated servant along with Sue French, Marsha Hamacher, Debbie Dodd and others that donate, and sort and knit, pray and help as they are able for our neighbors!

Saviors Soup was wonderfully attended and served by some Salish Sea Fellowship members. Several of our neighbors enjoyed some hearty soup and those who attended the Charge conference, finished off what soup was left. Thanks to all who prepared and served for so many!

Packages arriving for the Clothes closet. Jackets, and socks and blankets are especially needed at this time of the year. To see the joy on someones face when they get a new pair of boots and dry socks is truly a gift!

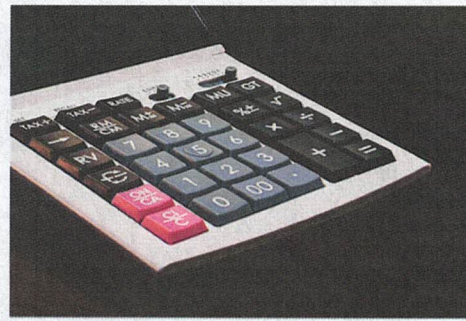
Choral Belles will be performing for all who would like to attend on December 12, 11-1 pm. This will be a potluck to feed the ladies, so please bring a dish to share if you would like to come. It will be a delightful medley of Christmas songs. What a nice way to start the holiday season.

Who says soup can just be tasty and filling??....It can also be blessed with some fiddle music, and donations of pies or goodies. Saturdays soup was all that and so much more. Check out the photos of the Fiddle players enjoying the sanctuary and folks sitting down to just listen. This church is "jamming" all on its own...always busy and showing all that Missions, really are our thing!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!**







### Treasurer's Report Year to Date

1/1/2024 – 9/30/2024

#### Income:

Pledges \$87,587.31\*

Earned Income \$41,936.63

Total \$130,743.94

#### Expenses:

Apportionments \$13,576.00

Mission \$6,800.00\*\*

Operating \$38,892.74

Program Ministry \$31,383.92

Personnel \$24,675.13

Total \$129,867.40

Total to Date Profit/Loss \$1,496.54

\* Your Pledges are Needed! If you haven't made your pledge, it isn't too late.

\*\*This amount does not reflect funds received or spent for the Soup Kitchen or General Store; those funds are accounted for in an Accounts Payable (pass through) Account. All funds given for the Soup Kitchen or General Store goes directly to support those ministries.







And then there is this:

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they should not interfere with God's divine will.

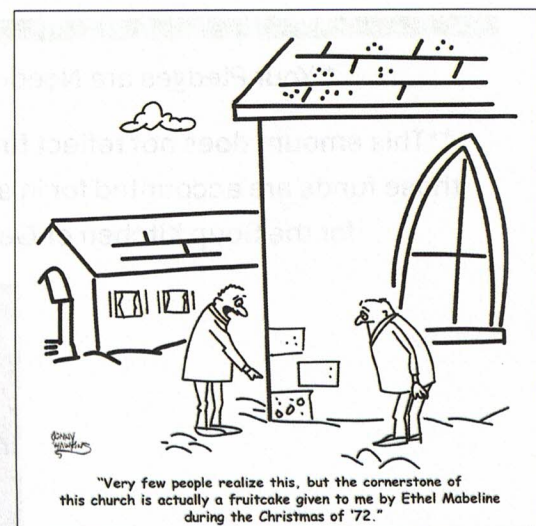
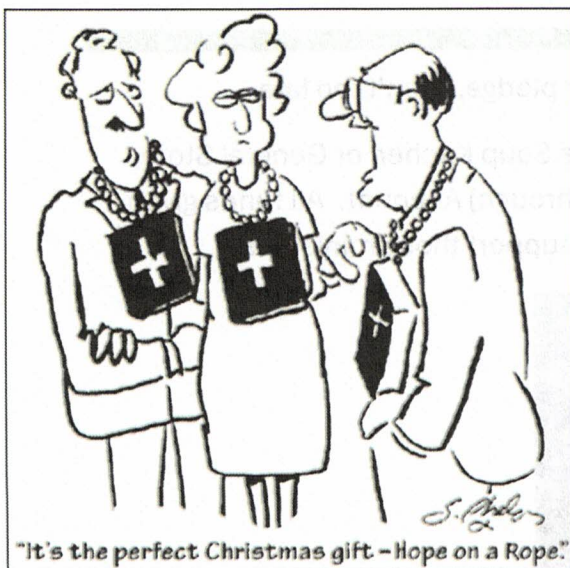
At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later, the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a more creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.





# Local MISSION of the MONTH

Summary of all donations by category October 1– October 31, 2024

	Amount	#Donations	#Donor
Missions	\$100.00	1	1
Non Pledge gifts	\$65.00	3	3
Parking lot	\$625.00	3	3
Pledges	\$4,235.00	24	15
Clothes/Store	\$300.00	2	2
Card Income	\$15.00	1	1
UMCOR	\$1,250.00	2	2
Totals	\$6,590.00		36

Total Distinct donors across all categories 23

Summary of all donations by category 1/1/2024– 10/31/2024

Category	Amount	#Donations	#Donors
Building Maintenance	\$40.00	1	1
Card Income	\$15.00	1	1
Clothes/General Store	\$1,000.00	13	7
Missions	\$4,450.00	14	6
Non Pledge gifts	\$3,513.00	57	15
Parking lot	\$4,858.00	60	19
Pledges	\$83,265.36	275	31
Quil Sr Table	\$475.50	4	2
UMCOR	\$1,450.00	3	3
Soup Kitchen	\$339.61	8	4
Totals	\$99,406.47	436	

Total Distinct Donors across all Categories: 57

For 2024, there were 18 pledges turned in for a total of \$70,860.00

For 2025 there are 16 turned in so far for a total of \$68,230.00(11/19/2024)





December

## BIRTHDAYS

## HOSPITALITY

## OUR PRAYERS

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Please see sign up sheet to provide flowers for the altar each Sunday. They add so much to the service!

## COUNTERS

1: Lori & Kathi  
8: Debbie & Connie  
15: Marsha & Diane  
22: Lynn & Betty  
29 Lynn & Betty

## GREETERS

Ted Ross  
Patrick VanCamp

## LITURGISTS

1 John Sweet  
8 Billie Fitch  
15 Liz Hazen  
22 Laurie Engelbeck  
29 Kathi VanCamp



- \* 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 1  
Jer 33:14-16  
Ps.25:1-10  
1Thes3:9-13  
Luke 2:25-36

December 8  
Mal 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Phil 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

December 15  
Zeph 3:14-20  
Isa 12:2-6  
Phil 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

December 22  
Mic 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55  
Heb 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45

December 29  
1 Sam 2:18-20,26  
Ps 148  
Col 3: 12-17  
Luke 2: 41-52

Lent begins

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



2024



2024

Sunday 1	MON 2	Tues 3	Wed 4	THUR 5	Fri 6	Sat 7
	Alzheimer support 10:30-noon SSF: study series 1-3:00pm Comparing cultures		Spirit Singers 11:00			General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm  Saviors Soup 10:30-1:00p
10:00am Worship 8 11:15am Fellowship SSF Service 3-7pm	9 SSF: study series 1-3:00pm Comparing cultures	10 Designated Drivers 4:30p  Bell Choir 11-12 noon	11 Spirit Singers 11:00	12 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting Rogue Yoga 10am-11  Choral Belles Perform & PotLuck 11-1:00pm	13	14 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm  Saviors Soup 10:30-1:00p
15 10:00am Worship Bell Choir performs 11:15am Fellowship SSF Potluck 4-7om Bell Choir performs for SSF	16	17 Designated Drivers 4:30p  Bell Choir 11-noon	18 Spirit Singers 11:00  Deadline for Newsletter	19 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)  Rogue Yoga 10am-11	20	21 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm  Saviors Soup 10:30-1:00p
22 10:00am Worship 11:15 Fellowship	23	24 Designated Drivers 4:30pm Bell Choir 11-noon  Christmas Eve	25 Holiday Office Closed  Merry Christmas	26 Rogue Yoga 10am-11  7-8pm Al Anon meeting Library	27	28 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm  Saviors Soup 10:30-1:00p
29 10:00am Worship 11:15 Fellowship	30	31 Designated Drivers 4:30pm Bell Choir 11-noon				
SSF: Salish Sea Fellowship						



A Son Is Given

December 2024

My son's birth was a gift for my wife, Allyssa and me. I remember the day he was born and the stress I felt as Allyssa had to have a C-section. I was with her the entire time. When the doctor delivered our son and I heard his first cry, I understood how it must have felt for Joseph to witness the birth of Jesus.

While the birth of a child is a gift, the birth of Jesus Christ was God's greatest gift. When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph knew he had come to bring salvation to all.

During Christmas we can get so caught up in looking for the perfect gift for others that we miss the perfect gift given to us by God. Salvation through Jesus means that we are eternally loved by God. From this gift of love, we are inspired to love one another. Such a gift is free for all to take, and once accepted, it is life changing

Read Matthew 1:18-25

COME  
AND  
Worship  
WITH US



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

Monday— Thursday