

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen

March 2025

Social Justice Advocacy

Over the past month many of you have heard me speak on or write about in one of my emails regarding our new and improved Book of Discipline and the radically proactive approach to addressing social justice issues that the General Conference of the United Methodist Church would like to see local churches take in their communities. To me this is very Wesleyan. Years ago, I read a biography on John Wesley who was an Anglican priest in England, born on June 17, 1703, and died on March 2, 1791, living during almost the entire 18th century. Wesley was appalled at the suffering, living conditions, and abject poverty of the people living literally in the very shadows of their churches. Taking the true Gospel of Jesus Christ to heart he began a ministry to improve the living conditions of the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters and at the same time offer them the gift of salvation and hope. This did not sit well with the established order of the Church of England who not only wanted to maintain their status quo but to not lose favor with the Crown. Wesley lost his church and was forbidden to preach in any Anglican churches. Undaunted, he became a street preacher and an activist attracting large crowds of people yearning to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Those who felt threatened by Wesley's message hired thugs to show up at his outdoor events who would incite the crowds to violence and throw rocks at Wesley causing him on many occasions to flee for his safety. He never gave up on the Church of England but for his efforts Methodism was born. He was a true social jus-

tice advocate who gave a voice to the voiceless. He risked it all for the betterment of others.

The lessons of John Wesley were long forgotten by modern Methodists who were often more concerned with the bottom line and keeping the pews filled. We all know how that's working out as churches get smaller and many are opting to close their doors and no longer be a presence in communities that desperately need their presence. And that's where we come in. We are called to be advocates for our communities, advocates for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So that brings me to the point of this article. Our calling to be social justice advocates for Jesus Christ. I was nominated by our District Superintendent to be the Puget Sound Missional District's representative on the Conference Board of Church and Society. Currently, there are 43 churches in our district, many of them small churches just like us led by part-time pastors, with some even being led by laity. The United Methodist Church sees engagement in social justice advocacy as a way of getting back to walking our talk, putting our faith into practice. Part of my job description on the board is to secure the names and contact information of local church Social Justice Advocates in our District and to introduce myself to them. I did that recently and am waiting to hear back from them. Now, of the 43 churches in our district only 20 have a designated social justice advocate.

I know what you're thinking. Who is our social justice advocate? Technically, we don't have one. Over the years I have unofficially served in this capacity doing such

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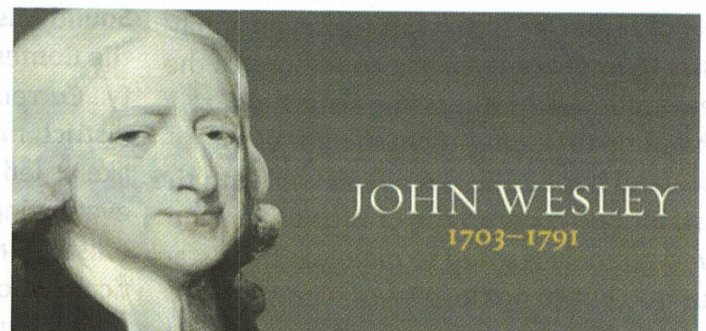
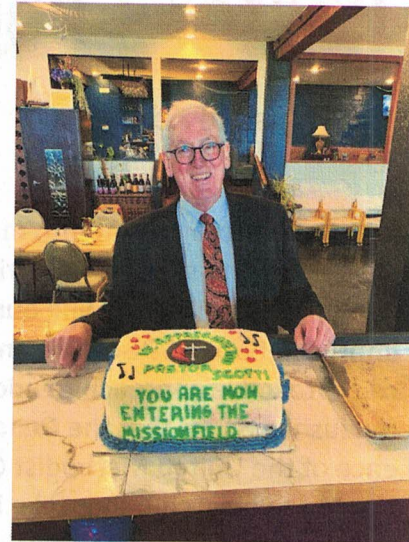
Con't>>> such things as attending community meetings, writing letters to elected officials, working with other entities on matters that affect the welfare of the people who live around us, and encouraging our home-grown missionaries and disciple of Jesus Christ who are our boots on the ground clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger. I believe that Spirit has been slowly bringing us along, making us stronger and more confident in our outreach to the point that we are ready to take the next step. What is the next step you ask? Good question. I believe that not only do we need a Social Justice Advocate, but I think we actually need a Social Justice Committee. We need someone, a committee, hopefully, who can work with me and the Administrative Council in identifying social justice issues that not only affect our immediate area but as wide as we can reach. We are already recognized by many as a "go-to" resource for those needing help and have partnered with many of the other likeminded entities in our community.

Gee, I don't know Scott, that sounds pretty time consuming and daunting. I know, but it doesn't have to be. We can grow into it as we already have. We're not starting something new. We're building upon what we've already done in Jesus' name. We need to continue to serve the less fortunate but we now, like John Wesley, need to advocate for them. We need to be their voice. There are many ways to do this that include, but are not limited to attending meetings, serving on local boards and committees, being our representative and learning how we can help others. When we become aware of an issue, we can take the time to thoroughly investigate and then bring our concern to those who are charged with addressing such issues. In the past I have written letters to our county commissioners, our elected state representatives, and our congressmen and women raising our concerns and how they fit in with our United Methodist beliefs as outlined by our Social Principles. In fact, one of our elected officials was a member of a Methodist Church and would always respond to my letters personally always mentioning that he too was a United Methodist. Trust me, as an elected official in two different states I was always concerned with what was on the minds of my voters, especially the ones who took the time to reach out.

So, this is where you come in. As most of us are aging Baby Boomers we've seen a lot, experienced a lot, done a lot and aren't finished living. Our life experience is invaluable, and it gives us great insight into the challenges of living in an imperfect world filled with imperfect people

who misuse the gift of free will. Won't you consider being a part of this next phase in the life of our church as we continue to grow and minister to those whom God sends us to love? He now wants us to reach out and advocate for others. It's what Wesley would do. It's what Jesus would have us do.

Scott:



"THERE IS NO HOLINESS, BUT SOCIAL HOLINESS"



Dearly Beloveds,

For several days now, I have been trying to find the words to share with you particularly in times such as these, but I just can't find them.

I guess my own feelings seem to get in the way.

The truth is in the past two weeks, I have been anxious... fearful... stressed out... doubtful... angry... mad... confused... distracted... discouraged...

I want to remain hopeful. I still want to "make hope happen" as I committed to you all during the Charge Conference season but...

Finally, today the words came through my morning meditation from the book Spirit Wheel:

Meditations from an Indigenous Elder, by Steven Charleston. I would like to borrow them and share them with you.

Here's what Charleston wrote:

Love will not lose.

Even if the evidence of the daily news

Seems to suggest that it will

Even if we despair of the values we thought we shared Even if we imagine the divisions between us Have grown too wide:

Love will not lose.

Love cannot be constrained by legal walls Political pieties or institutional fear.

Love is subversion of power by mercy.

It is the uncontrolled spirit of hope That erodes the authority of oppression.

Love is the human soul made visible.

Once we see it in one another's eyes

No force on earth can compel us to deny its reality.

No matter what it takes, no matter how long it takes.

Love will not lose.

Peace, Mark Galang



Desserts When You Want Them!

Our Baker's Are Ready to Bake!

- Are you craving something sweet?
- Do you have a special birthday or other occasion to celebrate?
- A special cake makes any occasion more festive!
- Do you want to help our missions in a sweet way?

Our bakers can help!

Although we have are no longer raising money to help pay for the parking lot, we have added a new income source to help balance the budget. The new income source is Fund Raising!

Our bakers are now fund raising to specifically support the Missions Budget Line item for our monthly gifts that support: Bayside Housing, Tri-Area Foodbank, ECHHO, and UMCOR for disaster relief.

We can make:

Pies, Cakes, Cookies, Cupcakes, Giant Cupcakes, Jumbo Cupcakes and bars. We can also make: Brownies, sweet breads and other items. Just call and we can make it happen!

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

It's a win, win, win!

You get a sweet treat when you want it, our bakers get to do what we do best, and the church raises money to help support our missions!

Call, text or email Lori at 360 620-0809 or lori@tlobe.com.



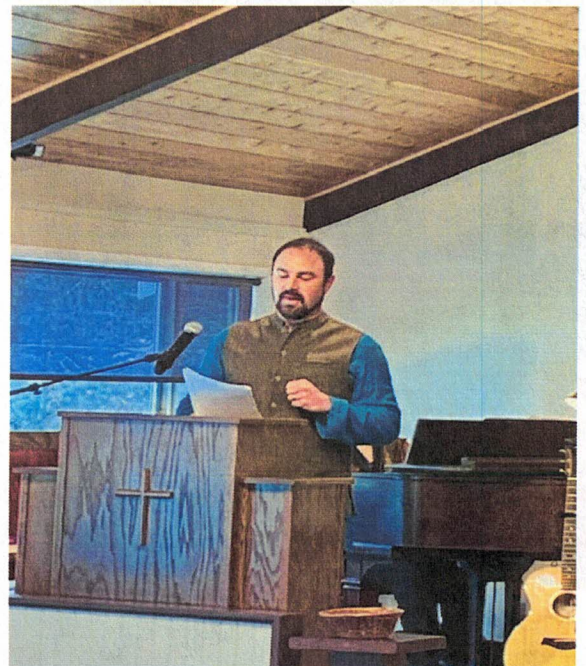
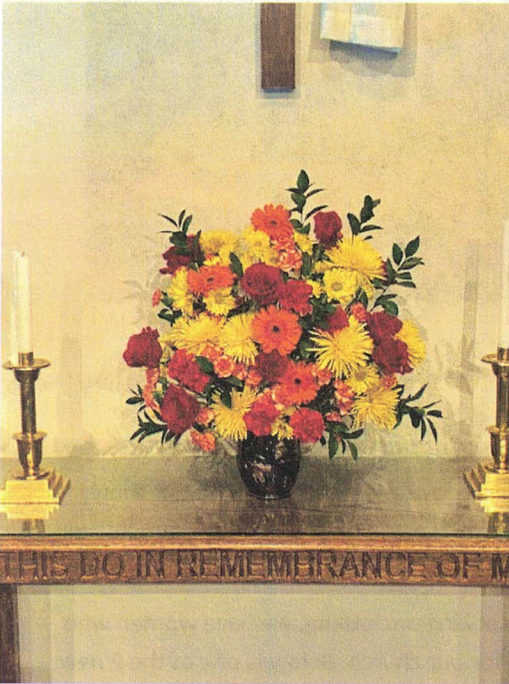
Lee-
Alison
Sibley



Black History Month gave us an outstanding performance by Lee-Alison Sibley a gifted and much celebrated soprano, and readings from her son Gabriel Bezic. Lee was accompanied by our own Sheila Harwood a classically trained pianist.

The performance which was a fund raising event with proceeds being split between the Fire victims in California and the United Methodist disaster relief fund known as UMCOR. We are thrilled to say \$900.00 was raised and will be divided equally. Thank you to all!

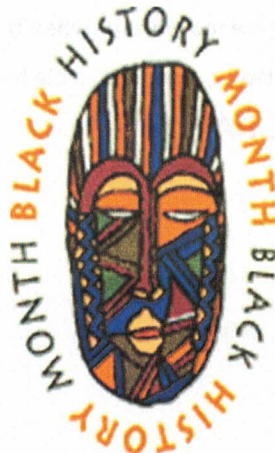
<<< Flowers by Billie fitch



Gabriel Bezic



Kai Charrier getting her first
piano Lesson from Sheila Har-
wood





Helping out in the Clothes closet/Food Pantry, on a very snowy Saturday are workers (L-R) Debbie Dodd, Teresa Rosekrans & Marsha Hamacher.

Not Pictured; Sue French & Scott Rosekrans. Jean Holtz did not make it in.



This church abounds with talent. These lovely ladies came in on our snowy Saturday the 8th of February, along with Lori Oberlander in the Soup Kitchen to serve our neighbors in need of warm clothes and a hot lunch!

But our talents don't just apply to cooking or clothing, we have women who can build lovely objects of worship for our church. Below is one of the 2 new kneelers produced by Connie Ross with some assistance from her husband Ted. The extension of the chancel warranted the need to make new kneelers, and they are movable for when the Bell Choir performs. Next time you see any of these ladies, give them a big thank you! **We are a church where "HOPE HAPPENS"**



Cold weather brings on the need for socks, underwear, towels, blankets, men's jeans & boots. Thank you to all who donate to help our neighbors!



Next Meeting: March 6, 2025

Where: Community United Church

When: 10 am Please be Prompt

Hosted by: Laurie Engelbeck

Devotional: Laurie Engelbeck

Guest Speaker Hanako Meyers of Olympic

Angels. Book discussion after a quick meeting

Bring: Sack lunch. Coffee & Dessert will be provided.



United
Methodist
Women

Trying times. There is so much going on in the world right now that is so troubling I've gotten to where I don't want to watch the evening news. I'm worried and I'm anxious about what the future holds for so many people. Well, worry and anxiety have been our constant companions since the dawn of time, since being cast out of the Garden of Eden. We've seen countless wars, epidemics, famines, natural disasters, financial collapses, despots, and anti-Christ's all creating havoc and destruction over which we seemingly have no control. It seems Biblical because it is. We live in an imperfect world filled with imperfect people who, through the exercise of their free will, we and countless others suffer. So where do we turn for help and comfort? The Apostle Paul saw and experienced many of the same worries and anxieties over the course of his three missionary journeys and he tells us in Philippians 4: 6,7 to: *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* We do need to go to our quiet place and have that conversation with Jesus who will listen and bring us calm and during that conversation we may gain some clarity as to what is worrying us, and because we will not be given any more than we can bear, we will find comfort and maybe even some direction as to what we can do to address all that is keeping us awake at night. Wednesday the 19th email by Scott Rosekran





Saturday Soup Kitchen: Savior's Soup

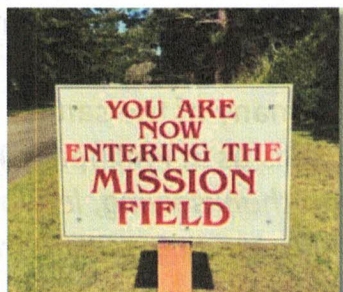
Great news: With the help of Karen, an organized volunteer, with Salish Sea Fellowship, we have organized and labeled the draws to make it easier to find the things we need. We cleared off the counter a little bit and found drawers and cabinets to store things rather than leave them on the counter. Thank you, Karen!

Currently, we serve around 20-25 bowls of soup with gusts up to 30 bowls of soup per week.

The people we serve are so grateful for a hot meal and goodies like eggs and banana to take with them.

They love the fellowship and relaxed atmosphere! Sometimes, they feel so comfortable, they take a short nap.

We have a few new volunteers that are very helpful. That means currently, we have a nice rotation of volunteers to make and serve soup each Saturday of the month! CUMC is spreading our love one bowl of soup at a time!



Things to Remember:

- Bananas
- Hard Boiled Eggs
- No added Salt



If you any questions, please contact Lori by text, phone call, or email at 360 620-0809 or Lori@tlobe.com

Thank you for your support in this important ministry!

Regarding John Wesley's Manifesto, "End all forms of enslavement."

It's Martin Luther King Day 2025, and I'm pondering the points of John Wesley's teachings and how they impact United Methodists today. The edict to "End all forms of enslavement" jumps out. To some it may seem almost a cliché with no need to consider it. However, the problem still exists today.

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, was an ardent opponent of slavery. In 1789, a rule forbidding participation in slavery was included in the General Rules of American Methodism. History and our Book of Discipline tell us that later, those guidelines on its prohibition were relaxed or not enforced in places where slavery was legal. Ultimately, Methodism split into separate Northern and Southern churches due to the holding of slaves.

Today, the effects of slavery have broadened to include many underprivileged and vulnerable, held against their will for illegal and immoral gain. Whatever the inspiration, it is still as cruel and heinous as ever. United Methodists have worked to eradicate the many forms of violence that destroy the integrity of individuals, families, communities, and nations.

I believe we must continue to work to change attitudes, beliefs, policies and practices at all levels of society that dehumanize others and promote the exploitation and abuse of them. As people of faith, we must become aware of how violence affects our communities, how we can end our participation in it, and what intervention will end its ongoing cycles.

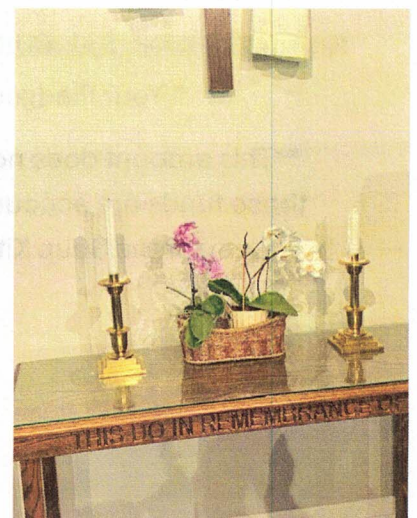
FYI: The National Human Trafficking hotline: 1 888 373-7888, connects victims of sexual and labor trafficking with support to get help and stay safe. It supplies support 24/7 in 200 plus languages.

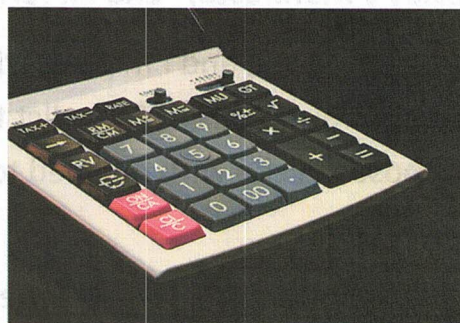
Written and submitted by Debbie Dodd



<<< Beautiful kneeling benches constructed and finished by Connie Ross! What a gift she is to us all!

>>> Orchids provided by Kathi VanCamp





Treasurer's Report Year to Date

1/1/2025 – 1/31/2025

Income:

Pledges-loose Plate \$11,612.25*

Earned Income \$4,045.31

Total Income

\$15,657.56

Expenses:

Apportionments \$1391.60

Mission \$600.00**

Operating \$2998.92

Program Ministry \$64.72

Personnel \$5770.53

Total Expenses

\$10888.02

Total Profit/Loss

\$4769.54

* 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.





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.

Summary of all donations by category January 1– January 31,2025

| | Amount | #Donations | #Donor |
|---|-------------|------------|--------|
| LA Fire Relief | \$2,030.00 | 9 | 9 |
| In Kind donation | \$ 567.80 | 1 | 1 |
| Pledges | \$10,677.00 | 22 | 16 |
| Clothes/Store | \$20.00 | 1 | 1 |
| Food Pantry | \$100.00 | 1 | 1 |
| Non-pledge gifts | \$650.00 | 13 | 8 |
| Totals | \$14,044.80 | 47 | |
| Total distinct donors across all categories | | | 28 |



March 2025

BIRTHDAYS

1. AJ Lavery
9. Patrick Van Camp
9. Terry Taylor (visitor)
12. Liz Hazen
14. Gladys Heinzinger

HOSPITALITY



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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

much to the service!

COUNTERS

- 2: Lori & Kathi
 9: Debbie & Connie
 16: Marsha & Diane
 23: Lynn & Betty

GREETERS

- 30 Lynn & Betty
 Ted Ross

LITURGISTS

- 2 John Sweet
 9 Billie Fitch
 16 Liz Hazen
 23 Laurie Engelbeck
 30 Kathi VanCamp



March



December LECTIONARY READINGS

March 2
 Exod 34:29-35
 Ps 99
 2 Cor 3:12-4:2
 Luke 9:28-36

March 9
 Duet 26:1-11
 Ps 91:1-2,9-16
 Rom 10:8b-13
 Luke 4:1-13

March 16
 Gen 15:1-12,17-18
 Ps.27
 Phil 3:17-4:1
 Luke 13:31-35

March 23
 Isa 55:1-9
 Ps 63:1-8
 1Cor 10:1-13
 Luke 13:1-9


March 30
 Josh 5:9-12
 Ps 32
 2 Cor 5:16-21
 Luke 15:1-3,11b-32

***** HOPE HAPPENS HERE *****

2025

March

2025

| Sunday | MON | Tues | Wed | THUR | Fri | Sat 1 |
|---|--|---|--|--|-----|---|
| | | | | | | General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm Saviors Soup 10:30-1:00p |
| 2 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship SSF Service 3-7 pm | 3 ALPS Class: Great Decisions at JC Library | 4 Designated Drivers 4:30p Bell Choir 11-12 noon | 5 Spirit Singers 10:30 | 6 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting Rogue Yoga 10am-11 | 7 | 8 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm Saviors Soup 10:30-1:00p ~~~~~ ALPS Class: Rose Care & Spring Pruning not @ CUMC |
| 9 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship SSF Potluck 4-7pm | 10 Alz Support 10:30-noon Spinners Group 1:30-3:30 | 11 Designated Drivers 4:30p Bell Choir 11-noon | 12 Spirit Singers 10:30 ALPS Class: Explor- ing the Energy Tran- sition Story @ CUMC | 13 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library) Rogue Yoga 10am-11 | 14 | 15 General Store- Hours: 10am to 1pm Saviors Soup 10:30-1:00p |
| 16 10:00am Worship 11:15 Fellowship SSF Service 3-7 pm | 17 Spinners Group 1:30-3:30 | 18 Designated Drivers 4:30pm Bell Choir 11-noon | 19 Spirit Singers 10:30 12:30-3:30 SSF Class @ CUMC Deadline for Newsletter articles | 20 Rogue Yoga 10am-11 7-8pm Al Anon meeting Library Ad Council zoom meeting 6:30pm | 21 | 22 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm Saviors Soup 10:30-1:00p Bluegrass Pick- ers 11-3:30. Sanctuary |
| 23 10:00am Worship 11:15 Fellowship ALPS Class: The Living Legacies of the 7 Princi- ples | 24 Spinners Group 1:30-3:30 | 25 Designated Drivers 4:30pm Bell Choir 11-noon | 26 Spirit Singers 10:30 | 27 Rogue Yoga 10am-11 7-8pm Al Anon meeting Library | 28 | 29 General Store Hours: 10am to 1pm Saviors Soup 10:30-1:00p |
| 30 | 31 Spinners Group 1:30-3:30 | SSF: Salish Sea Fellowship ALPS Class offered by SSF (see bro- chure in the Nar- thex for full info on classes & loca- tion) | | | |  |

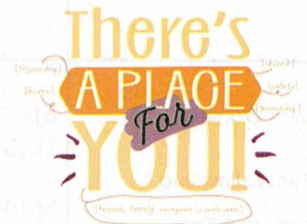
TEMPTATION

MARCH 2025

Following my retirement in 2018, I began walking my dog, Annie, every morning. One of our routes takes us past fields and farmland with beautiful mountain ranges in the distance. However, the road also has roller-coaster hills, sharp turns, and no shoulder. When we take this route, I cross from one side of the road to the other so we are always visible to traffic. While I know which side of the road is safe, Annie is always drawn to the other side, tempted by what she might find.

How often do we do the same in the course of a day? We may begin our morning in devotion to God and set out to follow the guidance of scripture. But before long we can get caught up in the events around us and give in to the temptations tugging at us —spending money irresponsibly, speaking out of anger, holding on to a grudge, judging a neighbor. It is easy to get drawn in. But scripture reminds us that when we are tempted, God will provide a way out (see 1 Cor 10;13). Today, when we feel pulled by temptation, let us examine our ways and return to the Lord.

Debb Bowman 3/1/2025 Upper Room



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

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Fellowship Time: 11:15 am

Scott Rosekrans, Pastor

Email: pastorscottrosekrans@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours:

10 am - 4pm

Monday— Thursday