

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

## Community United Methodist Church

### Pastor's Pen



June 2025

#### Methodist Downsizing

Downsizing. It's something we may have had to do at some time in our lives or, more realistically, it's something we've been telling ourselves we need to do as our lives and situations have changed.

I know, now that Teresa and I are in our eighth decade we seem to be having this conversation a lot. My closet is full of clothes I no longer need, like dress shoes and suits hanging next to the clothes I will never fit into no matter how hard I try to lose weight. I've got books upon books that I've read and will not read again sitting on overburdened shelves. My two-car garage is so full of stuff I couldn't possibly make room for another bicycle that I will not find the time or the energy to ride. Don't even get me started on the collection of things that our kids accumulated when they were growing up. They don't want them, and we can't bring ourselves to dispose of them. The fear or concern is hanging on to this stuff so long that it becomes somebody else's problem.

And that's the way it is with the Methodist Church. We're sentimental and have hung on to stuff for so long it is getting in the way of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I mean, think about the history of Community United Methodist Church for example. Before Community was formed the Tri-Area was served by two smaller Methodist churches, one in Port Hadlock and the other in Chimacum, both being planted between 1900 and 1910. That was fine until World War Two ended in 1945

and the Baby Boom began in 1946. By the 1960s these two little churches were bursting at the seams with new families that seemed to grow by one new member every year, so the decision was made to form one church in the middle, and we are glad they did. But then came the 1970s and the Boomers slowly stopped coming to church with their families as they did when they were younger and the trend began reversing itself. Rooms previously used for Sunday School classes became places to store things that were no longer being used. The money for repairs and building upkeep dwindled, and it became increasingly more difficult to finish the year in the black and still pay the apportionments and the salary of a fulltime pastor.

Sound familiar? It should as Community United Methodist Church has gone through its own downsizing thanks in part to a senior pastor who was honest enough to tell her church the grim reality of a shrinking congregation. Fortunately, though she led the leadership in the right direction as the decision was made to downsize to a part time clergy person. And here we are nine years later still going and still growing in spite of a denominational split and a deadly pandemic.

Now I'm not saying all of this to get a pat on the back. What I'm saying is that we've learned a lot during this downsizing transition, learning what works and what doesn't and not being afraid to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. And what we've learned has been invaluable to us as we go forward and plan for the future. It has been so valuable that on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> I had the

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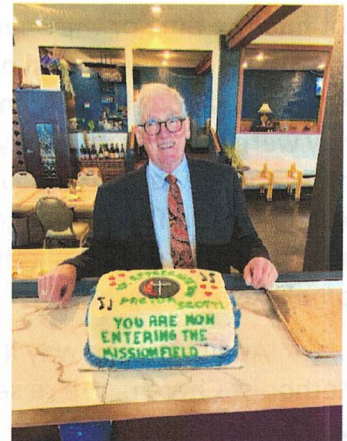
opportunity to preach at Colby United Methodist Church over on the Kitsap Peninsula. Colby finds itself in the same position that Community munity was in ten years ago. I know the pastor and offered to come down and meet with the congregation and share our experience and how it has worked out for us. I was accompanied by John Sweet and Steve Chase who mixed and mingled with members of the congregation sharing their stories and thoughts on the experience. -We wanted to let them know that downsizing wasn't a bad thing and, if fact, it can be very liberating as you are not burdened by all that stuff you no longer need and does nothing to advance the mission of the church. I told them they were ahead of the game as they were already seriously considering a form of downsizing and that if they kept an open mind they would be surprised at where the Spirit would lead them as a congregation and a church located exactly where they needed to be. I also told them that the timing was perfect as our new Bishop just released a three-part Episcopal Address and that a part of the address actually had to do with downsizing. To keep pastors in the pulpit each district in the conference will have two or three part-time District Superintendents sharing the workload of what one DS carried. Additionally, the Bishop was very frank in letting those fulltime ordained pastors know that there may not be enough churches in the conference to support one fulltime pastor, meaning that if they wanted to maintain their fulltime status, they may have to consider taking on two or more churches. This may cause some senior pastors to retire and others to seriously consider a career change, but there will be other pastors out there who will rise to the challenge and seize the opportunities presented by a church that has decluttered and downsized and is eager for what the future brings.

As far as our church is concerned, I think we've

finally turned the corner. We've done some major decluttering and downsizing to the point where we are seeing some encouraging growth. Our trustees have done an amazing job in addressing the maintenance needs of our facilities and upgrading our infrastructure. The Administrative Council has a vision that is future oriented as we seek to be the church Jesus Christ needs right here in the Tri-Area serving the needs of the least of his brothers and sisters. Financially, we are strong as our congregational pledges are up, and we have come up with creative ways to supplement our annual budget keeping us in the black to the point where we can fund missions and still pay our apportionments. Our worship team continues to grow and gets better and better each week as we explore our gifts and put them into service to God. And our congregation is loving, engaged, welcoming and excited to be in church.

I don't know what the future holds for us, but I can't believe that the Spirit would invest this much time and energy into a church only to let us fail, failing not only ourselves, but failing those we are called to serve and minister to as they come to us as an answer to their prayers. I kind of feel as if our downsizing may be coming to an end and a new growth is there for us to seize and live into.

Scott



**A REMINDER TO THE SUNDAY COUNTERS! PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COVERAGE IF YOUR GOING TO BE GONE ON YOUR ASSIGNED SUNDAY, OR LET BETTY PRENTICE KNOW!**

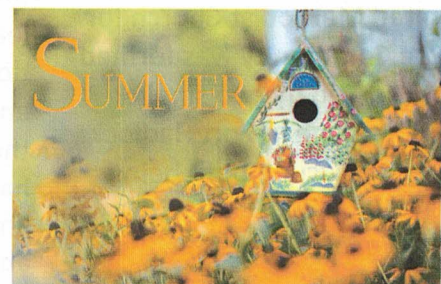
**1ST SUNDAY: LORI OBERLANDER & KATHI VANCAMP**

**2ND SUNDAY: DEBBIE DODD & CONNIE ROSS**

**3RD SUNDAY: MARSHA HAMACHER & DIANE JOHNSON**

**4TH/5TH SUNDAYS LYNN MARLOW & BETTY PRENTICE**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE & COOPERATION!**





## Our Social Creed

As I was thumbing through the Social Principles of our new United Methodist Book of Discipline, I happened upon Our Social Creed which is found in paragraph 164 of our Social Principles.

In conversations with folks I often get asked what the difference between United Methodists and the other denominations is. It's a hard question to answer in twenty-four words or less but I do my best. I think Our Social Creed sums up pretty well what we believe and stand for as United Methodists and although it is too long for you to remember and recite back to someone who asks, it is worth reading and meditating upon just so you have a better understanding of who we are.

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights of property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress. We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

Note: It is also followed by A Companion Litany To Our Social Creed which is recommended that it be used frequently in worship services. I plan on using it as a lead into our first Sunday Communion services.



We have this  
**HOPE**  
as an anchor for the soul,  
**FIRM &  
SECURE.**  
Hebrews 6:19, NIV

National Day of Prayer was May 1, 2025

Great turnout and meaningful gathering with speakers and music!

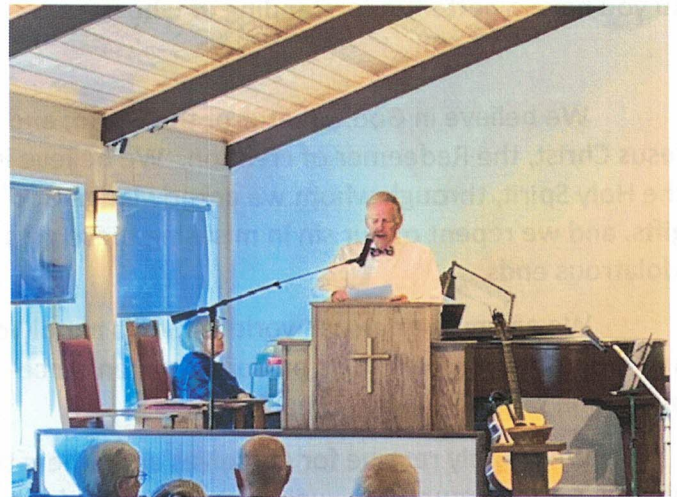


<< Rev Dale Kelley

John Sweet

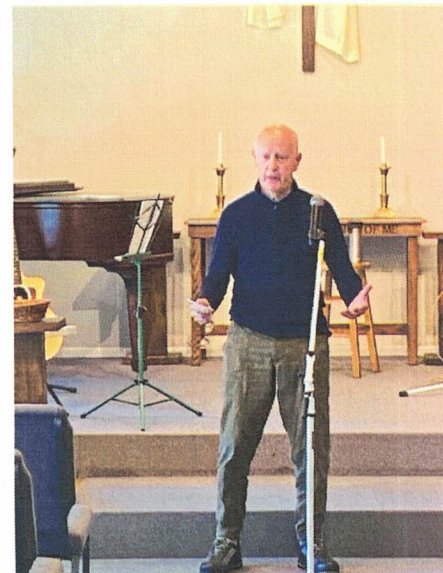
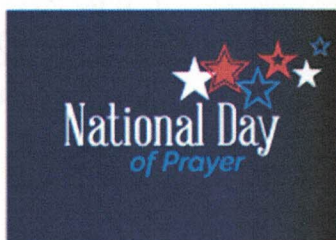


<<Laura Love



Proudly presided over by the Reverend Dale Kelley and John Sweet, the program included music by Laura Love with Sheila Harwood on piano, and Scott Rosekrans. Guest speakers such as Neil Vroegop (right) >> who gave us moving testimony and encouragement!

God is in control and Hope Happens Here!



>>

# Community United Methodist Church

*A United Methodist Congregation Serving East Jefferson County*

130 Church Lane  
P.O. Box 1165  
Port Hadlock, WA 98339

360-385-1579  
cumc@olympus.net  
Scott Rosekrans, Pastor

5/26/25

Rep. Emily Randall

346 Sixth Street, Ste. 500

Bremerton, WA 98174

Re: The Genocide in Gaza

Dear Representative Randall,

Thank you for taking the time out of your extremely busy schedule to read this letter. We truly value your time and your service.

I have no doubt that you, like us here at Community United Methodist Church, are horrified by the acts of genocide being committed against the defenseless citizens of Gaza. While we do not oppose Israel's right to exist and live in peace, we decry the inhumanity that is being visited upon the men, women, and children who live in Gaza and merely desire to live in peace. We have watched the news coming out of Gaza and words cannot describe the pain in our hearts when we see innocent children wasting away in the arms of their mothers, being denied the basic right to just have something to eat, their "daily bread". It keeps me awake at night as I pray for their relief and an end to their suffering.

Our United Methodist Book of Discipline, in our Social Principles under the section entitled Government Responsibilities says in part: *In keeping with international laws and ordinances, we vehemently protest the use of torture, slavery, genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression by any government and call for the strictest international sanctions to be imposed in such cases.* Waging a war that includes such acts of atrocity does not bring peace. It only deepens the hatred held by a people that worship a monotheistic God, a God that desires that all of His children live in peace and harmony.

The previous administration recognized the role of the United States in seeing to the humanitarian needs of the residents of Gaza and did all it could to intervene on their behalf while working behind the scenes to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict. It is our prayer that you and your like-minded colleagues in the House will continue to do all within your power to ease the pain and suffering of the innocents and bring this conflict to an end, an end that is more than just the absence of conflict, but an end with a lasting peace.

Randall

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and please know that you and your colleagues who were elected to represent our interests and the interests of all who desire to live in peace are in our constant prayers.

Peace Be with You,

Scott W. Rosekrans

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

TERRY TAYLOR HAS HEADED BACK TO N DAKOTA. SHE WILL BE MISSED WITH HER QUICK SMILE AND FUN ATTITUDE! SHE JUMPED RIGHT IN WHILE VISITING US AND QUICKLY BECAME ONE OF US! WE WISH HER SAFE TRAVELS AND PEACE KNOWING SHE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT SHE CAME HERE FOR!

VISIT AGAIN TERRY, AND BLESSINGS TO YOU FROM CUMC

SCOTT & TERRY >>>>



CUMC IS LOOKING LOVELY THIS SPRING! WITH CAREFUL GARDENING BY SCOTT AND PLANTING "DEER RESISTANT" PLANTS, OUR GARDENS ARE ESPECIALLY SHOWY THIS YEAR!



CUMC is a busy church, bustling with activity and life!

Photos of the Spirit Singers and lovely flower arrangements we are blessed with are just a small part of all that happens here!

We hope to see YOU in church!

Flowers by Billie Fitch

Spirit Singers: Mark & Peggy Bauserman, Marsha Hamacher, Liz Hazen, Connie Ross, Scott Rosekrans, Cal White & Kathi VanCamp, Pianist Sheila Harwood



# Desserts When You Want Them!

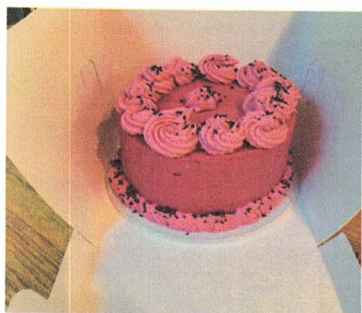
## Our Baker's Are Ready to Bake!

- 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?
- Do you need a special cake or pie for a dessert auction?

Our bakers can help!

June is lining up really well, so far I have two requests for cakes. From January through April, we have raised \$440.00 between the quarterly auction and baking personalized cakes and other baked goods.

We can make:



Pies, Cakes, Cookies, Cupcakes, Giant Cupcakes, Jumbo Cupcakes and bars. We can also make: Brownies, sweet breads and other items. I recently made a new item that can be added to the list of offerings: a Cookie Cake. It is a 9 inch round cookie with frosting and sprinkles.

If you want something to celebrate your special occasion, just call Lori and she will coordinate with the volunteer bakers to fulfill your requests. The minimum fee is \$50.00, but most people are so happy with their cake that they pay more—and it all goes to the church for missions.

I have received feedback from some of the people who have ordered cakes:

- It was delicious
- You went above and beyond
- It is so nice that it is in a box that made is so easy to travel with
- Sold the cake at the auction for over \$250.00.

It's a win, win, win!

You get a sweet treat when you want it, our bakers get to do what we love to do, and the church raises money to help support our missions! Call, text or email Lori at 360 620-0809 or [lori@tlobe.com](mailto:lori@tlobe.com).





United  
Women  
in Faith

**WE WILL BE TAKING THE SUMMER MONTHS  
OFF. PLEASE REJOIN US THIS FALL AND ENJOY  
YOUR SUMMER**



\*\*\* The UWF are preparing a benefit concert for Sept 9, 2025. ALL are invited! There maybe a few pop up gatherings to continue the planning for this event. Check your weekly Bulletin inserts for more information!\*\*\*\*

**CUMC HAS A FUN AND ACTIVE MEN'S GROUP. THEY MEET MONTHLY AND AFTER HAVING BREAKFAST TOGETHER, THEY THEN SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN OUR SAVIOR'S SOUP KITCHEN! WANT TO PARTICIPATE, ASK ANY OF THE MEN PICTURED BELOW:**

**L-R: STEVE CHASE, JAMES OLSEN, DON OLSEN, CAL WHITE, JOHN SWEET & PATRICK VANCAMP (NOT PICTURED: SCOTT ROSEKRANS)**

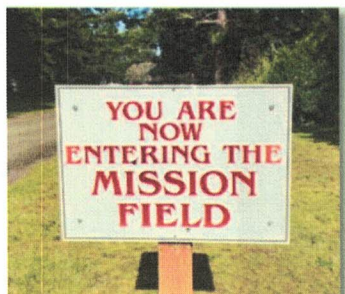




## Saturday Soup Kitchen: Savior's Soup

Welcome Back Linda and Cal and Ledema and Ray. We have at least two, maybe three groups that have committed to monthly Soup Kitchen duties willing to take a summer break and let you all fill in. Thank you for helping provide our winter volunteers a little break Yay! Cal and Linda have already jumped in to do the first Saturday in June, so that I can do the Kitsap Humane Society's PetsWalk---Thank you!

We continue to serve 20-25 bowls of soup with gusts up to 30 bowls of soup per week. Our visitors keep sending a clear message that this service is needed and appreciated. They are grateful for a hot meal and goodies like eggs and bananas to take with them.



time!

I invite everyone to come and check it out and spend time getting to know our volunteers and our participants—and have a bowl of soup. We love the fellowship and relaxed atmosphere

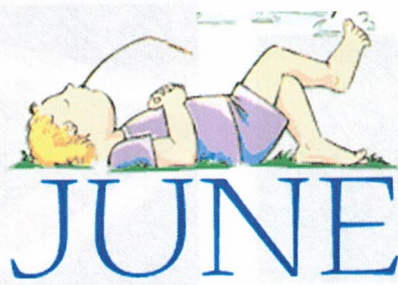
We now have volunteers to serve soup each Saturday of the month including the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday. CUMC is spreading our love one bowl of soup at a

### Things to Remember:

- Bananas
- Hard Boiled Eggs
- No added Salt



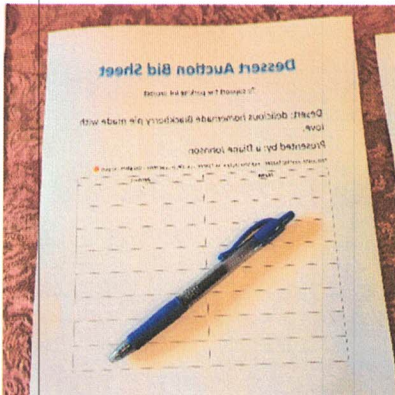
If you any questions, please contact Lori by text, phone call, or email at 360 620-0809 or [Lori@tlobe.com](mailto:Lori@tlobe.com)



# Silent Dessert Auction

The Dessert Auction is back!

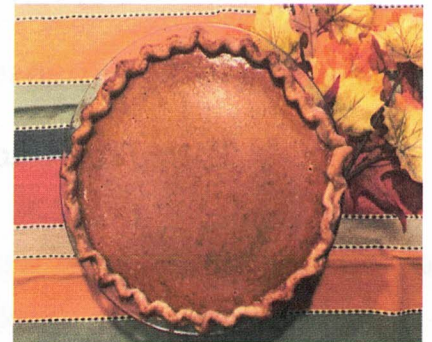
Some of you have asked about the Dessert Auction, now that the parking lot is paid off. The good news is that the parking lot is paid off, however, our annual budget was a little short, so we created a line item called "Fund Raising Income". I chose to recommend this new income line item to offset other options to balance the budget. Mostly, I didn't want to touch our missions of the month budget because that money is greatly needed for the organizations that we support: Tri-Area Food Bank, ECHHO, Bayside, and UMCOR.



The Dessert Auction will be held quarterly on the second Sunday. You can count on sweet treats to bid on in June, September, and December.

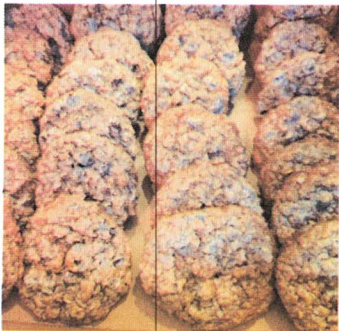
In June we have some sweet breads, a mixed fruit pie and other goodies lined up.

Bring your cash or checks and your appetite for sweet treats to bid on some delicious desserts that you can bring to a party, a family gathering or just take home to enjoy at your leisure.



If you are interested in baking cookies, brownies, or bars for our June auction set for the second Sunday in June, contact Lori Oberlander, know at 360 620-0809 or [lori@tlobe.com](mailto:lori@tlobe.com).

Proceeds will be used to help support our Missions





### Treasurer's Report Year to Date

1/1/2025 – 4/30/2025

#### Income:

Pledges-loose Plate \$38,245.69\*

Earned Income \$14,465.96

Fund Raising \$1,440.00

Total Income \$54,151.65

#### Expenses:

Apportionments \$5,566.40

Mission \$2,400.00\*\*

Operating \$23,680.77

Program Ministry \$4,602.32

Personnel \$22,829.28

Total Expenses \$59,378.77

Total Profit/Loss \$(5,227.12)

\* 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.



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.

## Summary of all donations by category February 1– February 28,2025

|                  | Amount             | #Donations | #Donor |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|--------|
| Fund Raising     | \$1,250.00         | 4          | 3      |
| In Kind donation | \$ 694.60          | 2          | 2      |
| Pledges          | \$33,417.74        | 97         | 24     |
| Clothes/Store    | \$558.00           | 9          | 5      |
| Food Pantry      | \$50.00            | 1          | 1      |
| Non-pledge gifts | \$3,756.70.00      | 51         | 14     |
| LA Fire Relief   | \$2,125.00         | 12         | 12     |
| Missions         | \$3,195.00         | 5          | 5      |
| Soup Kitchen     | \$320.00           | 4          | 3      |
| UMCOR            | \$662.00           | 7          | 5      |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>\$46,029.04</b> | <b>192</b> |        |

Total distinct donors across all categories 45



JUNE

June 2025

## BIRTHDAYS



6. Dale Kelley  
11 Gerri Shaw  
15 Stephen Chase

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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

## COUNTERS

6: Lori & Kathi  
13: Debbie & Connie  
20: Marsha & Diane  
27: Lynn & Betty

## GREETERS

Ted Ross  
Patrick VanCamp

## HOSPITALITY



## LITURGISTS

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

## 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

June 1  
Acts 16:16-34  
Ps.97  
Rev 22:12-14,16-17,20-21  
John 17:20-26

June 8  
Acts 1:1-11  
Ps 47  
Eph 1:15-23  
Luke 24: 44-53

June 15  
Prov 8:1-4,22-31  
Ps.8  
Rom 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15

June 22  
1 Kings 19:1-15a  
Ps. 42  
Gal 2:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39

June 29  
2Kings 2:1-2,6-14  
Ps 77:1-2,11-20  
Gal 5:1,13-25  
Luke 9:51-62

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

2025

JUNE

2025



| MON 2                                                                                             | Tues 3                            | Wed 4                              | THUR 5                                                                  | Fri 6                                                                | Sat 7                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                   | Designated Drivers<br>4:30p       | Spirit Singers<br>10:30            | 10<br>7-8pm Al-Anon<br>Meeting<br>Rogue Yoga<br>10am-11                 |                                                                      | General Store<br>Hours: 10am<br>to 1pm<br>Saviors Soup<br>10:30-1:00p                |
| 8<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:15am Fellowship<br>SSF Service 3-7 pm                                  | 9<br>Alz Support<br>10:30-noon    | 10<br>Designated Drivers<br>4:30p  | 11<br>Spirit Singers<br>10:30                                           | 12<br>7-8pm Al-Anon<br>Meeting<br>(Library)<br>Rogue Yoga<br>10am-11 | 13<br>General Store<br>Hours: 10am<br>to 1pm<br>Saviors Soup<br>10:30-1:00p<br>~~~~~ |
| 15<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:15am Fellowship<br>SSF Potluck 4-7om                                  | 16<br>Spinners Group<br>1:30-3:30 | 17<br>Designated Drivers<br>4:30p  | 18<br>Spirit Singers<br>10:30                                           | 19<br>7-8pm Al-Anon<br>Meeting<br>(Library)<br>Rogue Yoga<br>10am-11 | 20<br>General Store-<br>Hours: 10am<br>to 1pm<br>Saviors Soup<br>10:30-1:00p         |
| 22<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:15am Fellowship<br>SSF Service 3-7 pm                                 | 23<br>Spinners Group<br>1:30-3:30 | 24<br>Designated Drivers<br>4:30pm | 25<br>Spirit Singers<br>10:30<br>Deadline for<br>Newsletter<br>articles | 26<br>Rogue Yoga<br>10am-11<br>7-8pm Al Anon<br>meeting Library      | 27<br>General Store<br>Hours: 10am<br>to 1pm<br>Saviors Soup<br>10:30-1:00p          |
| 29<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:15 Fellowship<br>CUMC Movie Or<br>Class right after<br>church service | 30<br>Spinners Group<br>1:30-3:30 |                                    |                                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                   |                                   | SSF: Salish<br>Sea<br>Fellowship   |                                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                      |

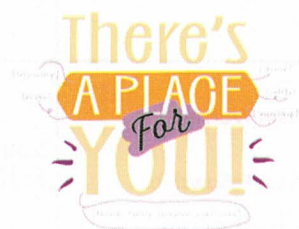
## DIVINE CONNECTION

JUNE 2025

In this age of the internet, it can be difficult to go about as usual when connectivity is suddenly lost. All communication seems to come to a standstill. This happened to us when our home internet connection was interrupted. There was a loud pop, and then our WI-FI cut off. We couldn't do any work on our computer or laptop. We had to depend on our limited mobile phone data to complete our work and connect with others. Later we figured out that the WI-FI had been cut off due to a faulty power adapter. Just like an internet connection, our spiritual connection with God can break down too. Unresolved sin in our lives can build up and make us feel distant from God.

If a strong internet connection is so important to our daily lives, how much more crucial is our spiritual connection with God! Without it we can do nothing.. We are like branches without a vine, a tree without roots. But we can maintain a close connection with God by reading scripture, acting on our faith and sharing the love of God with others, especially those who need hope in their lives.

Agnes Wee (Singapore) Upper Room



Community United Methodist Church

**HOPE HAPPENS HERE**

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