

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

## Community United Methodist Church

### Pastor's Pen



October 2026

#### Perish the Thought

On Sunday, September 20th I was the guest speaker for the Salish Sea Fellowship which uses our facilities for their services and other activities. I was there to speak about the separation of church and state and before I could get started the moderator announced that the next speaker's topic in October was whether or not religion was even necessary anymore. Well that got my attention so when I got up, I told the audience that I hoped my talk would help them answer that question in the affirmative.

Needless to say, I've been giving that question a lot of thought lately and, admittedly, it is a valid question, and when you consider the state of religion and Christianity today the future looks bleak. When I introduce myself to someone as a Methodist pastor many times the immediate response is: "Oh, I don't go to church anymore. I had a bad experience in church." I usually respond as to how unfortunate their experience was and that I am sorry for what happened. And, if I'm feeling brave, I remind them that Christianity is a religion of second chances and could they consider giving us a second chance?

But really, when you think about it, we haven't done ourselves any favors over the past several decades as major denominations have been experiencing decreases in Sunday attendance beginning as early as the 1960s. Many experts have written books on the subject of which I have bought and read many, but nobody really seems to have a viable answer. I think the problem is that there are so many things that can go wrong and just a few that can go right. People tend to remember our mistakes over what good we may have done. Once that downhill slide starts it's hard to stop and reverse the direction.

Before you bring an expert in to help you reverse course, I think it's important to remind yourself of what the mission of the church is. For us Methodists at least, it's to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I've been hearing that for years and always thought it was pretty catchy but how do you really do that? For me, it's all about keeping it simple. In keeping things simple, I usually tell folks to think of the Roman Empire and what they were known for. They were basically known for their roads, aqueduct system of water delivery, and security. When they tried to do too much in an attempt to extend the empire into areas they didn't need to venture, they crumbled. So, for me, what are the three essentials for leading a church and being relevant? I think it's preaching/worship, teaching, and missions/out-reach.

Think of church as a three-legged stool. For a stool not to wobble all three legs need to be of equal length, if not it wobbles when you try to sit on it, unable to support the weight equally. Eventually you go look for somewhere else to sit and

#### Inside this Issue:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Pastor's Pen        | 1/2 |
| QuiltWeek           | 3   |
| UWF & Altar Flowers | 4   |
| In the Kitchen      | 5   |
| Dessert Auction     | 6   |
| Socktober           | 7   |
| PNW News            | 8   |
| Treasurer's Report  | 9   |
| Financial News      | 10  |
| Birthdays & Prayers | 11  |
| Calendar            | 12  |
| Notes Page          | 13  |
| Closing Thoughts    | 14  |



**Perish the Thought, cont.**

we don't want that. I'll let each of you determine the strength of each leg as any one of the three may be of more importance to you if you rank them in order of what matters most to you in our efforts to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

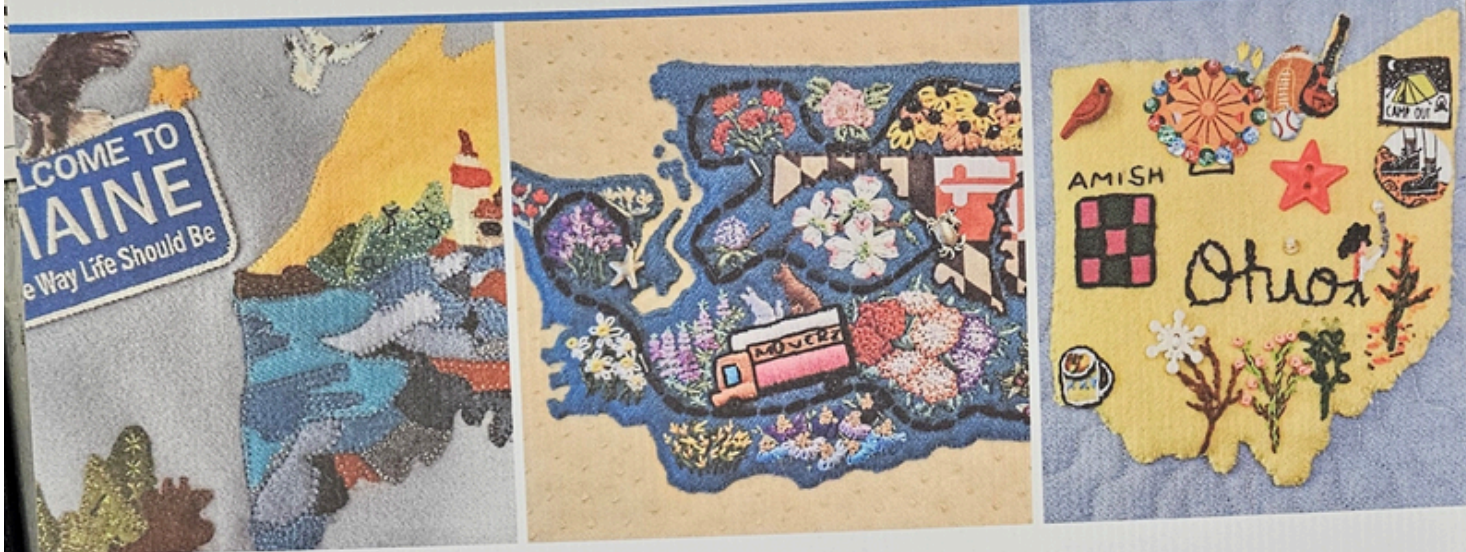
As a pastor, you can have ones that resonate with you but, to be effective, you cannot pick or promote one over the other. As I reflect upon the three legs, I think that all three legs could be stronger. Starting with preaching, I hope I've continued to grow in my presentations, and I do what I can with the time available to study the scriptures to make them relevant on Sunday mornings. My goal for the coming year is to try and find some courses or materials that will enhance my sermons giving them more depth and meaning. I am very happy with our worship as it continues to get better with the addition of so many people on our worship team. One thing I want to do is to get the liturgists a little more involved in Sunday worship so it's not all Scott on Sunday morning. Regarding our missions I think we are doing exactly what God wants us to do as we listen to the Spirit and consider where we were seven years ago, however, I think our outreach into the community is lacking. Our church leadership has discussed it, and we are always open to new ideas. Teaching is the leg of the stool that could use some attention. We've tried Bible studies and other small groups to no avail. I've rationalized the lack of adult education by claiming that our mature congregation is already pretty deep in spirituality but really, there is always more to learn and share. I have incorporated some teaching into my sermons, but that pool of knowledge is not one you would want to dive into headfirst. In the coming year we need to collectively address these issues, or we won't be as effective as a church as we want to be or need to be.

So, this leads me back to the initial question to be pondered by the Unitarians as to whether or not we need religion. I guess the answer to the question is who is, or who are, the "we" that need or don't need religion? If it's folks who have no interest in religion and just see us as an annoyance, as an entity that is not required to pay taxes like everyone else and contributes nothing material to society, then the answer is no. If it's the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters who need us to show them the love of Christ, who will feed them, clothe them, heal them, visit them, and welcome them with no strings attached or questions asked then the answer is yes. If it's the person who is lost and searching, who feels an emptiness in their lives, a hole in their soul and needs to know what we know, then the answer is yes. And if it's the community of believers who need to grow in their spirituality, who enjoy being in the presence of like-minded people, who desire to worship God for all that he means in their lives and the lives of others, the answer is, again, yes.

The onus is on us to be that church, that representative of religion or God as we know him with the understanding that not everyone needs us, or at least that is what they believe, but that there are others out there who do, and that is as important a reason for our existence as any.



~ Scott



## 50 States in Stitches: AQS Wool Appliqué Creativity Challenge Exhibit

Take a coast-to-coast tour of the nation through the cozy and colorful world of wool! Sponsored by WonderFil Specialty Threads, this imaginative exhibit features a collection of one-of-a-kind 8" x 10" quilts created by AQS Participants. Each artist chose a U.S. state to celebrate—be it their birthplace, their

Our very own Connie Ross' quilt made the cover of Quilt Week magazine (middle quilt). If you haven't had the privilege of seeing some of her many talents, you're missing out! Not only does she quilt, but she is a gifted wood worker, even to making her own bed, to playing a guitar and singing in the church Spirit Singers and helping to lead the Hand Bells when Marsha Hamacher is absent!

**KUDOS to Connie!!**





United  
Women  
in Faith

*Thursday October 1, 2026 10:00 AM*

*Where: Community United Church*

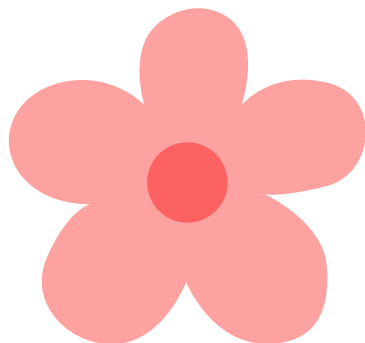
*Hostess: Marsha Hamacher*

*Devotion: Gerri Shaw*

*Crafts; Pat Chase*

*All Ladies Invited!*

*Bring scissors, glue and crafting items*



## *Altar Flowers*



*Many Thanks to all who  
provide the altar with a  
stunning display of artistry and  
local floral abundance.  
The church members enjoy  
them so much!*



## Our Bakers 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 to raise money for your special group or civic organization?

We can make:

Pies, Cakes, Cookies, Cupcakes, Giant Cupcakes, Jumbo Cupcakes and bars.

We can also make: Brownies, sweet breads and other items. Now I can also offer baked donuts.

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 a worthy cause—Missions!

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

- It was delicious, yummy and beautiful.
- You went above and beyond
- Can you make one of those Giant Cupcakes—They are so cool!
- 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

*Oktoberfest. Thanks again to Lori, Terri, and Patti for the work they put in on our post-service Oktoberfest fellowship last Sunday which officially raised \$504 for our mission fund. It was well-attended and I've heard rumors another event may be in the planning stages!*

# Silent Dessert Auction

There is still a need to raise much needed funds to continue supporting our four quarterly missions that support organizations that our meaningful to Community United Methodist Church and align with what is important to us:

- Tri-Area Food Bank
- ECHHO (Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization)
- Bayside Housing
- UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

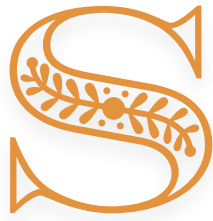
Our first Dessert Auction of the year was held in March following the service, and we have been blessed with some tasty desserts since then.

It's a good idea to 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!

If you are interested in baking cookies, brownies, or bars for our next auction 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 Budget.





# Socktober Month is Here



October is Socktober month here at CUMC.

Please consider donating new socks for ALL ages!

Donations can be made at the church on Sundays or during General Store  
on Saturdays



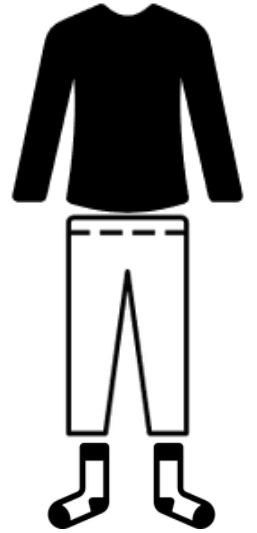
Kai holding a tiny  
Hummingbird nest, the  
mens "brain" trust at work  
on a saturday soup day  
and Scott with Teresa,  
hiking Hurricane Ridge



# General Store Donations

Through the kindness of so many people, we are pretty well stocked in our clothes closet. One of the things we don't have is space to store items that may not be in demand due to the time of the year. Such being the case, Jean & Marsha ask that you contact them before bringing your donations so they can tell you whether or not we can accept it at this time. The best way to contact them is to send an email to CUMC.donate@gmail.com, and one of them will get back to you.

Of course, donations of non-perishable food are always accepted as long as they are within the expiration date. As the weather gets cooler food items like hearty soups, stews, and chili are highly sought after, as is canned fruit. If you can, when buying these items, try to get the healthier ones that maybe lower in sugar, fat or sodium.



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*Starting November 30, 2026, Rev Dale Kelley will be hosting an Advent series based on the booklet by Max Lucado called "Because of Bethlehem", a bible study guide and video.*

*The class will be held from 12pm-1:30pm here, in the church narthex. Soup and Bread will be provided. Watch for more information to come and hope to see as many of you as possible to this special 4- week series!*





### Treasurer's Report Year to Date

1/1/2026 – 7/31/2026

#### Income:

Pledges-loose Plate \$ 64,942.79\*

Earned Income \$34,455.48

Fund Raising \$1,898.00

Total Income \$101,296.27

#### Expenses:

Apportionments \$11,566.31

Mission \$3,500.00\*\*

Operating \$28,772.27

Program Ministry \$5,645.72

Personnel \$41,418.59

Total Expenses \$90,902.89

Total Profit/Loss \$10,393.38

\* Thankyou for your pledges, they are appreciated!

\*\*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.

**Updated report coming soon**



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: YTD – August 31, 2026

|                  | Amount           | # Donations | # Donors |
|------------------|------------------|-------------|----------|
| In-Kind Donation | 153.89           | 1           | 1        |
| Pledges          | 65,024.48        | 250         | 34       |
| Clothes/Store    | 3,060.00         | 20          | 9        |
| Food Pantry      | \$3,050.00       | 12          | 6        |
| Non-pledge Gifts | 2,475.00         | 19          | 8        |
| Missions         | 940.00           | 10          | 3        |
| UMCOR            | \$220.00         | 4           | 4        |
| Worship/Music    | 600.00           | 2           | 1        |
| Sheila Fund      | \$900.00         | 9           | 9        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>    | <b>78,973.37</b> | <b>345</b>  |          |

**Total distinct donors across all categories: 55**

**For 2026, there were 25 pledges for a total of \$ 83,321.00**

*Updated report coming soon*

|  <b>October 2026</b>  |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Birthdays</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                   | <b>Our Prayers</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 13: Marsha Hamacher<br>15: Audrey Sanderson<br>19: Bernita Butler<br>30: Daine Johnson                                                                                                  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the homeless, the hungry, and the unemployed.</li> <li>• For Peace on Earth.</li> <li>• For wisdom for our leaders.</li> <li>• For employment for people struggling to find meaningful work.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Altar Flowers</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Liturgists</b>                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Please see sign up sheet in the Narthex on the table, to provide flowers for the altar each Sunday. They add so much to the service!                                                    | 4: John Sweet<br>11: Billie Fitch<br>18: Liz Hazen<br>25: Laurie Engelbeck        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Counters</b>                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Greeters</b>                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 6: Lori & Kathi<br>13: Debbie & Connie<br>20: Marsha & Diane<br>27: Betty & June                                                                                                        | Tedd Ross<br>Patrick Van Camp<br>Patrick Cooper                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

### October Lectionary 2026

| <b>October 4</b>                                           | <b>October 11</b>                                               | <b>October 18</b>                                          | <b>October 25</b>                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Exod 20:1-4,7-8<br>Ps. 19<br>Phil 3:4b-14<br>Matt 21:33-46 | Exod 32:1-14<br>Ps. 106:1-6,19-23<br>Phil 4:1-9<br>Matt 22:1-14 | Exod 33:12-23<br>Ps. 99<br>1 Thess 1:1-10<br>Matt 22:15-22 | Deut 34:1-12<br>Ps. 90:1-6,13-17<br>1 Thess 2:1-8<br>Matt 22:34-46 |

| SUN                                                                                                                  | MON                                                                          | TUE                               | WED                                                                             | THU                                                                                  | FRI                                                              | SAT                                                           |                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>October 2026</div> <div></div> |                                                                              |                                   |                                                                                 | 1.<br>Rogue Yoga<br>10-11 S<br>ALPS 1-4 N<br><br>Al-Anon 7-8<br>Lib                  | 2<br>ALPS 10:30-12 Lib<br><br>CEC 11-2:30 N                      | 3<br>General<br>Store hrs: 10 am-1 pm<br><br>Savior's<br>Soup |                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                      | 4<br>10 am<br>Worship<br>11:15 am<br>Fellowship                              | 5<br>Spinners - 1:30-3:30<br>NUR  | 6<br>Bells 10:30-12 N<br>Spirit Singers 12:30 S<br>Designated Drivers 4:30 pm L | 7<br><br>ALPS 10-12 Lib<br><br>CEC 1-2:30 CR                                         | 8<br>Rogue Yoga 10-11 am<br>NUR<br><br>Al-Anon Mtg 7-8 pm<br>LIB | 9<br>ALPS 10:30-12 Lib<br><br>CEC 11-2:30 N                   | 10<br>General<br>Store hrs: 10 am-1 pm<br><br>Savior's<br>Soup                   |
|                                                                                                                      | 11<br>10 am<br>Worship<br>11:15 am<br>Fellowship<br>SSF<br>Community Service | 12<br>Spinners - 1:30-3:30<br>NUR | 13<br>Bells 10-noon<br>Spirit Singers 12:30 S<br>Designated Drivers 4:30 pm L   | 14<br>Alps 10-12 Lib<br><br>CEC 1-2:30 CR                                            | 15<br>Rogue Yoga 10-11 am<br>NUR<br>Al-Anon Mtg 7-8 pm<br>LIB    | 16<br><br>CEC 11-2:30 N                                       | 17<br>General<br>Store hrs: 10 am-1 pm<br><br>Savior's<br>Soup                   |
|                                                                                                                      | 18<br>10 am<br>Worship<br>11:15 am<br>Fellowship                             | 19<br>Spinners - 1:30-3:30<br>NUR | 20<br>Bells 10-noon<br>Spirit Singers 12:30 S<br>Designated Drivers 4:30 pm L   | 21<br>ALPS 10-12 Lib<br>Deadline for submitting articles to Newsletter<br>CEC 1-2:30 | 22<br>Rogue Yoga 10-11 S<br><br>Al-Anon 7-8<br>Lib               | 23<br>CEC 11-2:30 N                                           | 24<br>General<br>Store hrs: 10 am-1 pm<br><br>Savior's<br>Soup                   |
|                                                                                                                      | 25<br>10 am<br>Worship<br>11:15 am<br>Fellowship                             | 26<br>Spinners - 1:30-3:30<br>NUR | 27<br>Bells 10-noon<br>Spirit Singers 12:30 S<br>Designated Drivers 4:30 pm L   | 28<br><br>ALPS 10-12 LIB<br><br>CEC 1-2:30 CR                                        | 29<br>Rogue Yoga 10-11 S<br><br>Al-Anon 7-8<br>Lib               | 30<br><br>CEC 11-2:30 N                                       | 31<br>General Store hrs: 10 am-1 pm<br><br>Savior's Soup<br>SSF Reserved for 5pm |



Community United Methodist Church

\*\*\*\*\* hope happens here \*\*\*\*\*

## Encourage One Another

October 1, 2026 Upper Room

I once participated in a four mile run at the Kansas City Zoo. There were over two thousand runners. All of us had different paces, different styles, and different ways of being a runner. Even with those differences, all of us had the same finish line as our goal.

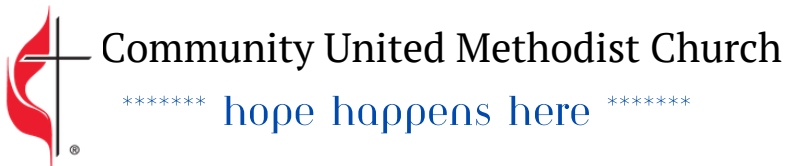
The course was confusing, so there volunteers throughout, pointing out where we should go. Sometimes we were on paths, sometimes on back roads only the zookeepers see, and once we went right through the yard of the petting zoo! Along the way, the volunteers not only kept us on the right course, but they yelled encouragement:

“You can do it! Way to Go! You’re more than halfway!”

When the path got tight and curvy, there were traffic jams, and we had to slow down for others and be mindful of those in our way. But there were no negative, judgmental comments. People were supporting and encouraging each other. The sense of community was amazing.

This is the kind of community Paul calls us to be in today’s scripture. Paul tells us to encourage each other. We are one in Christ. When we refrain from judgment and lift others up, we set a positive example, pointing the way to shared finish line of drawing closer to Jesus.

~ Stacy LS Siegele, Kansas



Mailing Address: PO Box 1165

Physical Address: 130 Church Lane

Port Hadlock, WA 98339

Phone: 360-385-1579

Church Office Hours:

8am-2pm, Tuesday/Wednesday

8-10 am Thursday

Website: [www.HadlockChurch.com](http://www.HadlockChurch.com)

Sunday Worship: 10 am

Fellowship Time: 11:15 am

Church office email: [cumc@olympus.net](mailto:cumc@olympus.net)

Community United Methodist Church Scott

Rosecrans, Pastor email:

[pastorscottrosecrans@gmail.com](mailto:pastorscottrosecrans@gmail.com)

Pastor's office hours:

10 am-4pm Monday-Thursday

