

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen 

September 2026

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It's A Gift

After I got the word a little over ten years ago that I was going to be appointed to Community United Methodist Church as their new pastor I wondered just what I was bringing to the table. I wasn't ordained, I had only taken a short Certified Lay Ministry course, and I had never led a church. And I was sure the church leadership was wondering the same thing. I remember my introductory meeting with the leadership, and I remember one of their questions that stuck with me. Knowing I was not seminary trained and a "preacher" with little pulpit experience I was asked what my vision for the church was? Wow, I thought, that's a great question as I struggled to come up with something intelligent as a response. I drew a breath and said: "As your former county prosecutor I can tell you that the Tri-Area is ground zero for drug addiction, alcoholism, unemployment, homelessness,

domestic violence, and petty crime. The county isn't doing anything about it, but we will." That was a pretty bold statement, and the follow up question was what did I have in mind to address these issues? Not exactly knowing what I was going to do I told them to give me some time to come up with a plan.

And here we are ten years later using our many gifts to be the church that God needs in the Tri-Area. As I've said before, God plays a long game and rarely, if ever, consults with those who are called to put the work in. God knew there was a livability problem in the Tri-Area and that it wouldn't or couldn't be addressed overnight and that we weren't realistically anywhere near ready to take on such a project. And on top of that, there were other areas that needed addressing as we gathered each Sunday for worship.

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It's a Gift, cont.

God knew I would need help, so He started sending people to us with a varying array of gifts, talents, and desire, additionally inspiring some of the folks who had been here for decades themselves worshipping, working, and serving.

Before we could take on a project as big as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, and welcoming the stranger God knew we needed to work on our infrastructure so we began looking at ways to upgrade our facilities slowly tackling one project at a time paying as we went and doing much of the work ourselves and God kept sending us people with gifts, some they didn't know they even had. During this time, we continued to learn from one another, identifying strengths and weaknesses as we grew stronger as a faith community. And after five years when God felt we were ready he dropped the concept of a tiny home village in our lap which we readily accepted without reservation. Responding to the call several gifted individuals recognized the need for a clothing closet and food pantry to serve our new neighbors, so we got organized and opened our General Store one month after the dedication of Peter's Place. And then, to test us, we were challenged with a pandemic which we fearlessly met head on praying that God would keep us safe. And then, when God felt we were ready, we were moved to start a Saturday soup kitchen which tapped into more talented people, some who knew nothing about making soup and cheerfully serving the hungry but were willing to give it a try. And while all of this was happening, part of God's plan was to bring us closer as a family of faith. Our reinvesting in our facilities

remodeling our parsonage, paving our parking lot was a way to show that we weren't done yet, that we had a plan for the future. Our worship got stronger and hopefully my sermons got more impactful and meaningful. God sent us some talented singers and musicians who offered up their gifts of joy through music and song. And word got out that something was happening at Community United Methodist Church as more and more people began checking us out on Sunday mornings and some even stayed looking to be a part of what we are doing and whose we are bringing their talents and gifts to put into use.

As the Apostle Paul wrote in chapter twelve of his letter to the church in Rome God gives us gifts to use in his service. Some are great and some are small but all of them are of value to God and his church universal. He wants us to use our gifts in cooperation with others for the good of his people and his creation. And, I believe, our greatest gift is the giving of ourselves, especially when someone shows up at our door whether it's on Saturday for food and clothing or on Sunday for worship. We need to make them feel welcome as Jesus never turned anyone away who came to him for help, comfort, acceptance, or validation that they were worthy. This is the gift Jesus gave us by his example and his teachings, the unconditional love and unmerited love we all deserve.

It's a gift worth giving.

~ Scott



SPAMFEST 2026

There were no less than 14 talented folks of all ages that came together to sing, jam and just have the best time for those who attended!! Then there was a table full of baked goodies to bid on after the music.

YUMMO!

We raised \$2,257 for the food pantry here at CUMC, not to mention the food that was donated (see below).



Pre-service tune-up, Suzanne, Connie and Mark



The General Store Boutique!

by Jean Holtz

Jean Schubert (pictured left) has been a volunteer at our CUMC General Store since the beginning, 5 1/2 years ago. She's a devoted member of the Peace Lutheran Church in Pt Ludlow, proof that the Store is a multi-faith volunteer space. Jean works in the Clothing Room at the Store and shines as our "Ensemble Coordinator"! Jean has a particular artist's eye and talent for putting together outfits that add a "boutique" atmosphere in the room.

We love the extra effort that Jean takes because it adds in making for a pleasant and fun experience, that we want to provide for our shoppers.

Thank you, Jean, for adding your artistic flair to our Store!





United
Women
in Faith

Thursday September 3, 2026 11:00 AM

****POTLUCK****

**Where: Connie Ross' home
33 Watney Lane, Port Ludlow**

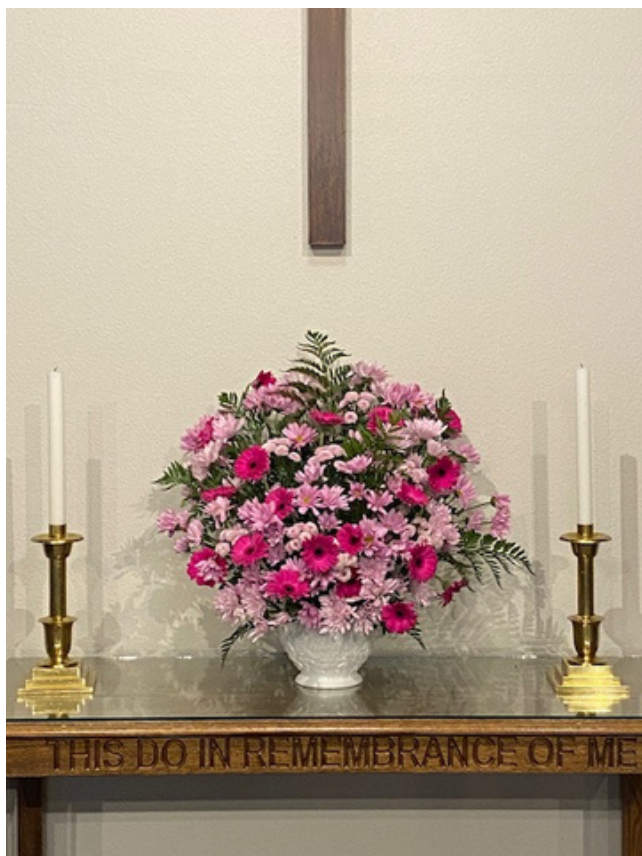
Phone 301-633-9504

Devotion: Betty Prentice

All Ladies Invited!



Altar Flowers



The altar flowers this time of year, remind us of the joys of Summer and the wonderful area of the USA that we get to live in!

These flowers are always so lovingly grown and arranged by some very gifted ladies we have attending our church! Thank you all who donate, purchase or grow the arrangements we have been blessed with!



Desserts When You Want Them!

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 or lori@tlobe.com.



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 on March 8th following the service, and we were blessed with some tasty desserts.

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.

Proceeds will be used to help support our Missions Budget.





Is coming to Community United Methodist Church. On Sunday, September 20th after church.

As a fundraiser to help support the missions of our church.

Oktoberfest menu includes:

- Brats or Sausage with bun and all the trimmings
- Plant based brat options
- Sauerkraut
- German Potato Salad
- Coleslaw
- Dessert
- Sorry, no Beer.

When: After Church Sunday, September 20, 2026.

Price: By Donation. Bring your appetite.

Questions: Contact: Lori at lori@tlobe.com





Food for Thought: If we believe good leaders listen, we have to make room for the possibility that listening sometimes changes our minds. Our values can stay constant even as our read on a given context shifts, and a little humility goes a long way, especially when church leaders step into contested territory. Leading with patience and grace makes it far more likely we'll receive the same in return.

~ Patrick Scriven

TEN TIPS for Choosing the Right



PROVIDER



Stay 😊
healthy

Adapted from article by Indrid Henden, Contracts Management and Planning Director, from the Living Well Resource guide 2026 Olympic Peninsula Magazine can be found on the table in the Narthex

1. Confirm they are a registered provider
 2. Clear Communication
 3. Responsiveness
 4. Understanding
 5. Time frame
 6. Review the pre-authorization
 7. Pre-authorization timelines
 8. Modifying the pre-authorization
 9. Confirm agreed-upon rates
 10. Contact for questions & concerns
- Bonus Tip: Do not pay cash or direct payment for services covered.



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.



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 – July 31, 2026

	Amount	# Donations	# Donors
In-Kind Donation	\$153.89	1	1
Pledges	\$60,029.48	215	32
Clothes/Store	\$1,635.00	14	4
Food Pantry	\$3,050.00	18	6
Non-pledge Gifts	\$1,725.00	15	7
Missions	\$640.00	9	3
UMCOR	\$220.00	4	4
Worship/Music	\$200.00	1	1
Sheila Fund	\$900.00	9	9
TOTALS	\$68,753.37	280	

Total distinct donors across all categories: 49

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

September 2026

Birthdays		Our Prayers
2: Jon Flowers 15: Lori Oberlander 27: Julie Boggs		• 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.
Altar Flowers	Liturgists	
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!	6: John Sweet 13: Billie Fitch 20: Liz Hazen 27: Laurie Englebeck	
Counters	Greeters	
6: Lori & Kathi 13: Debbie & Connie 20: Marsha & Diane 27: Betty & June	Tedd Ross Patrick Van Camp Patrick Cooper	

September 2026 Lectionary Readings

September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
September 6 Exod 12:1-14 Ps.149 Rom 13:8-14 Matt 18:15-20	September 13 Exod 14:19-31 Exod 15:1b-11,20-21 Rom 14:1-12 Matt. 18:21-35	September 20 Exod 16:2-15 Ps.105:1-6,37-45 Phil 1:21-20 Matt 20:1-16	September 27 Exod 17:1-7 Ps.78:1-4,12-16 Phil 2:1-13 Matt 21:23-32

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
September 2026 		1 Spirit Singers 12:30 S Designated Drivers 4:30 pm L	2	3 Rogue Yoga 10-11 am NUR Al-Anon Mtg 7-8 pm LIB	4	5 General Store hrs: 10 am-1 pm Savior's Soup	
	6 10 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	7 Spinners - 1:30-3:30 NUR	8 Spirit Singers 12:30 S Designated Drivers 4:30 pm L	9	10 Rogue Yoga 10-11 am NUR AD Council 6:30 pm Al-Anon Mtg 7-8 pm LIB	11	12 General Store hrs: 10 am-1 pm Savior's Soup
	13 10 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship SSF Community Service	14 Spinners - 1:30-3:30 NUR	15 Bells 10-noon Spirit Singers 12:30 S Designated Drivers 4:30 pm L	16 Deadline for Newsletter articles or updates	17 Rogue Yoga 10-11 am NUR Al-Anon Mtg 7-8 pm LIB	18 ALPS 10:30 L	19 General Store hrs: 10 am-1 pm Savior's Soup
	20 10 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	21 Spinners - 1:30-3:30 NUR	22 Bells 10-noon Spirit Singers 12:30 S Designated Drivers 4:30 pm L	23 CEC 1-2:30 CR	24 Rogue Yoga 10-11 am NUR Al-Anon Mtg 7-8 pm LIB	25 ALPS 10:30 L CEC 1-2:30 N	26 General Store hrs: 10 am-1 pm Savior's Soup
	27 10 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	28 Spinners - 1:30-3:30 NUR	29 Bells 10-noon Spirit Singers 12:30 S Designated Drivers 4:30 pm L	30 CEC 1-2:30 CR		SSF = Salish Sea Fellowship	L = Library CR - Conf Rm NUR = Nursery N = Narthex S = Sanctuary K = Kitchen

Closing Thoughts: A Gracious Receiver

Although my mother worked full-time and we had few material possessions as a family, she was always generous with her time and helped those in need—without expecting to be repaid for her kindness. As a gracious as she was at giving, she was not always gracious at receiving. I suspect that her pride may have gotten in the way at times.

While giving graciously is important, it is also important to receive graciously. Without willing recipients, we are limited in how we share the time and gifts with which God has blessed us. I learned this lesson firsthand when I visited a church and a woman there offered me a centerpiece with a candle in it. I started to refuse because I already had so many objects like this at home. However, another woman whispered to me "You may not need the gift, but she needs to honor you with it. Accept it for her sake."

That important lesson taught me that in order for people to give there must be recipients who are willing to accept. If we deny another person the opportunity to share what they have, we also deny that person the blessings that come from giving. In both giving and receiving, let's strive to be gracious.

Mary Hunt Webb (Upper Room 9/1/26)



Community United Methodist Church

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

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

Sunday Worship: 10 am

Fellowship Time: 11:15 am

Church office email: cumc@olympus.net

Community United Methodist Church Scott

Rosecrans, Pastor mail:

pastorscottrosecrans@gmail.com

Pastor's office hours:

10 am-4pm Monday-Thursday

