The incarnation of God, the living presence of Jesus, was a practice of being physically present. Jesus went to the crowded town centers, the well, and other places where people gathered to offer love, compassion, and companionship. As followers of Jesus, we are to do the same.

Downtown development is intended to allow people to live, work and use transportation options within the neighborhood. There will be housing for senior citizens, university students, families, and professionals.

Increasing and diverse populations bring specific challenges as well. The North Urban Human Services Alliance (NUHSA), the school district Human Services Consortium, and members of the Bothell court system have all experienced the lack of a physical access point for people to learn about resources for assistance and they recognize that the need for this is increasing. The housing that is being developed downtown will only be affordable for people with lower incomes if developers find partners with priorities other than maximum profit.

Our purpose of Becoming Christ in the Community becomes living, breathing, and active when we open up to the vision of what this could look like in the downtown Bothell area. For Christ to go to where the people already gather would mean that Bothell UMC has a physical presence downtown and actively participates in the development of the community. Bothell UMC can use our gifts and resources to go back to our roots in downtown to create, once again,
a safe, inclusive place for people to gather. A partnership with a developer for this downtown space means that together we can create Affordable Housing for people who would otherwise be cost-burdened or unhoused. As good neighbors, we offer this developing neighborhood a place of belonging, of learning to know and serve one another. We can offer a space for people to grow spiritually, to find food, music, and art. With a foundation in the neighborhood, we can participate in real solutions to real needs while offering a companioning presence to all.

What does Becoming Christ in the downtown Bothell Community look like? We invite you to pray with us as that vision emerges and be open to the Spirit guiding this vision towards transformed people, relationships, and conditions.

To share ideas or questions, contact bothellurban@bothellumc.org.