A Note from Pastor Kristin  
Deacon

I hope you are participating in the #ONEyear reading of the Bible along with many others here at Bothell UMC! I am really glad I am doing this - if it were not for this disciplined reading schedule, I would tend to stay with my favorite gospel stories and miss some of the rich history in the Old Testament. For example, we recently read in Numbers about the dedication of the Tabernacle and the offerings that were brought by the leaders of the tribes to honor God. As they brought in their carts, oxen, goats, rams, lambs, silver plates, jars, and bread and discussed the care of the furnishings, courtyards, and curtains, it’s hard not to notice the generosity taking place!

I couldn’t help but think of our vision for downtown Bothell and our future opportunities for this same kind of generosity. I am excited to see how this journey ushers in our spirit of generosity for the people who are not yet introduced to the community of Bothell UMC and the love and grace of Jesus Christ!

What if each of us could consider what we have to offer in the service to our community, to people, and to Christ when we begin to build our new space downtown? We honor God when we honor people, and we honor God’s generosity to us when we share generously of ourselves with others. This is an exciting time for us as we continue to learn how we are Becoming Christ in the Community!

With a grateful heart,
Pastor Kristin

A Note from Grayson Holmes  
Outgoing Governing Board Chair

We typically associate generosity with monetary giving, but the notion of living generously is much broader. It’s about being generous with your time (like what activities you do) and your presence (like how you interact with others). Basically, it means looking for opportunities to spread the love and grace that God has so generously shown us.

Of late, I’ve tried to live generously by focusing on the present. I am a consummate worrier and often dwell on the future or become mired in worst-case thinking. Being more mindful of the here and now has allowed me to recognize the things that I can actually change. It helps me see ways I can love and offer grace to others—by, for example, sharing a kind word or doing an unexpected deed—and more purposefully respond to the needs of today. In short, it has provided more space for the generous work of the Spirit.
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Cover Photo: Ash Wednesday service drawing crosses on burlap after receiving ashes.  
Photo: Mount Rainier, Bothell High School, and Bothell UMC in view.
THE BACK 40 GARDENS
Written By Kendra Smith & Drew Hogan

32 years ago, members of Bothell UMC saw that their wooded lot could be used for something more than a spot for empty bottles and trash. They cut out and cleared nondescript bushes and trees to give us the area known as the “Back 40.” This included all the area west of the church parking lot.

At the time, Warren Brown—“Farmer Brown”—started the first set of gardens for growing vegetables for the food bank. In time, Master Gardeners increased the number of beds and created the Children’s Garden to work with local Girl Scouts and preschoolers.

For the past 13 years, Kendra Smith has been involved in leadership with the gardens when a fellow gardener, Le Brandes, created the idea for the “Pea Patches.” Pea Patches were the individual plots that people from the community could adopt and use as their garden space.

“I have had a bed ever since and became a Master Gardener in 2010 and began working with the Children’s Garden. Bothell High School culinary students became involved and have had a bed to grow herbs and vegetables for their culinary creations. Boy Scouts built the raised beds and the labyrinth as part of Eagle Scout projects, and church members have done the landscaping around it.
The walkers in the neighborhood have stopped to talk and share their stories with me. Science camps and youth groups have used the area. It has been an active and inviting space for the church to share with our neighbors. Elizabeth McTyre, fellow Master Gardener, and I have managed the Food Bank raised beds and the Pea Patch areas for many years and we are ready to move on to other interests.”

Kendra Smith

With the sale of the land through the Bothell Urban vision, the new developer is responsible for moving the gardens. However, following conversations with the leaders from the various gardens, and after decades of fruitful laboring in their ministry, they are ready to put their tools down. The High School will continue to use a garden that the developer will be moving to the sunny south-side of the church property.

“Land uses change and no doubt this is a change that furthers the mission of the church.”

Kendra Smith

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DID YOU KNOW?
HOPE LINK BEGAN AT BOTHELL UMC

hopelink

Since the fall, Hopelink has been piloting a "Mobile Market" to serve families that may not have access to transportation options for getting to a food bank at the right times of the day.

If you or someone you know could use assistance with groceries or more, be sure to share these upcoming dates when the Mobile Market will be in the parking lot!

HOPELINK MOBILE MARKET
FRESH & CANNED FOODS
2ND & 4TH MONDAYS
OF THE MONTH
Every year, the Governing Board discerns a specific way in which the church community can live out **BECOMING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY**.

In the Fall of 2019, the Governing board determined the 2020 focus to be **LIVE GENEROUSLY**

"If I hold on too tightly to the things that I want. If I try to take control of all that’s around me, I’m going to miss what God has in store... It’s a reminder for me to put trust in God and to show up in all those places, fully, to hear and see what God has in store.

How might we offer our **PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, and SERVICE** as acts of generosity and trust in what God is doing in our lives."

- Pastor Joe from the Live Generously Series

The sermon series is available on YouTube and can be accessed through the church website.
I have always loved hiking through the mountains, drinking water out of a cold freshwater stream, just soaking in the beauty of the living, breathing natural world surrounding me. When I became a member of Bothell UMC on July 16th, 2017, I took my pledge of membership seriously. Most of the expectations were easy to fulfill, but I wasn’t sure how I was going to serve others and live out the purpose of “Becoming Christ in the Community.” Bothell UMC has numerous ways to accomplish this through the many different missions and programs. I was struggling to find my right purpose and what was calling to me.

It all came together for me at an Earth Ministry presentation on becoming a “Greening Congregation” in 2018. Shortly after this meeting, a small group of us became the Guardians of the Earth with the goal of being better stewards of God’s creations. We officially became a greening congregation in 2019 and got to work changing how we get rid of waste at church, and I did a better job at home as we became more educated about what this means in the larger scope of caring for the Earth. We brought education and new waste bins to the church, and everyone started to work together to use the correct bin for compostables, recycling, and waste products. Just doing this has cut our carbon footprint and protects the earth.

This monumental achievement makes me proud of Bothell UMC and the community that shares our space. The fact that I was able to be a part of this has been personally very gratifying. I can’t think of a better thing to jump for joy over than protecting this precious Earth that we all live on. In 2020, the Guardians are hoping to do more education, advocacy, and community engagement activities. **We invite you to join us on our continuing journey as we become a greening congregation and better stewards of God’s creations. Meetings are the 3rd Sunday, every other month – the next meeting is March 15th at 6:00 PM.**

**WHO ARE THEY?**

Guardians of the Earth

As Guardians of the Earth, we acknowledge God has granted us stewardship of creation. Our mission is to inspire a culture within Bothell UMC so that our ministry practices incorporate

Gratitude for the gift of creation | Conservation of natural resources | Advocacy for the health of the earth
MONDAYS AT 7PM
MARCH 2 THROUGH APRIL 6


Purchase your own book or borrow a copy from the church library.
Every so often, I will go back through the pictures and videos on my phone to peruse the memories of the past. Recently, I have been particularly drawn to the videos of my son walking for the first time. Maybe it’s because my daughter is pulling herself up and gliding as she prepares to start her own adventures walking, but I find myself thinking about that first time for my son. I remember the room, the circumstances, and the gasp from all who were watching followed by exuberant excitement. Life definitely changed for us when he began to walk, and we’re preparing ourselves for when our daughter does too.

That’s life, isn’t it? Since the moment we learn to crawl, we are on the move - crawling to walking to running to driving. From home to school to work to play.

Jesus experienced this too while he was on this earth, and we see this throughout the Gospels that tell of his life and ministry. He was never in one place for a long time, but went from place to place, healing and teaching and loving the people. He was always on the move - and in the places where he went, there was transformation.

During this season of Lent, we will be on the move with Jesus, going with Him into the wilderness and over fences, into homes and onto the cross. Throughout these 40 days- not counting Sundays- we will spend time in contemplation and reflection as we draw nearer to God and to one another. At the end of Lent, we will gather on Easter Sunday and see Jesus move out of the tomb. Through it all, we will draw on Jesus for examples of a life of discipleship and see how we too can experience, and be agents of, transformation in all the places we go.

I hope and pray that this season will be one that is holy for you, that you would gain wisdom and understanding while we are on the move with Jesus, and that you would experience God’s love in all the places you are #OnTheMove.
WE KNEAD YOUR DOUGH
YOUTH MISSIONS FUNDRAISER

With your help we raised $1,679.90 to go towards the summer youth mission trip to Blackfeet, Montana July 12-18! Thank you for helping our students be able to put their faith into action without financial burden.

Current 7th-12th graders and adults interested in serving this summer can email drew@bothellumc.org for additional information.

Love other circle-shaped foods?
Stay tuned for the youth pie fundraiser in Early Summer!

Join team RUN BUMC for the 2020 CanDo 5K!

The event benefits My Village NW, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and cultivating relationships between the community and individuals with special needs and their families.

The last three years we have been the largest non-school team! Help us continue the tradition of making a statement that Bothell UMC is here to support our community.

register at www.cando5k.org | questions? office@bothellumc.org

KIDS CAMP VBS
JULY 27-31 | 9-12PM EACH DAY

4yrs (as of August 1) through 6th grade (Fall 2020)

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1

Want to serve on the Kids Camp VBS Team? learn more and sign up at bothellumc.org/kids-camp

THANK YOU!
One of the purposes and goals of the Music Department at Bothell UMC is connecting our faith with and into our lives as we strive to Become Christ in the Community. It’s far too easy to become attached or even tethered to a specific musical tune. Granted, the powerful sounds of music enable even those on their deathbed to come alive and even sing their way into the life eternal, but the call to me is that the message of what words we sing has far more impact, importance, and relevance for us as people of faith than anything else.

One of the first times I remember being profoundly impacted by a song’s lyrics was while serving as Director of Music at Sand Point Community United Methodist Church. We were preparing for World Communion Sunday, and Pastor Cathlynn Law chose a hymn written by New Zealand hymn writer Shirley Erena Murray. Her hymn, “A Place at the Table,” epitomizes her writing in the way it not only welcomes and includes, but also calls for justice, reconciliation, and unity as the body and community of Christ.

HER SONG STRUCK ME AS BOTH RELEVANT & RELATABLE.

My awareness of Shirley and the importance of her work has grown since then. Shirley’s hymns include “Come and Find the Quiet Center,” “Creation Sings,” “Community of Christ,” “Everything That Has Voice,” “Give Thanks for Life,” “God of the Bible,” “God Weeps,” “Let Our Earth Be Peaceful,” “Star-Child,” “Touch the Earth Lightly,” “For One Great Peace,” and “Take My Gifts.”

I recognize Shirley as an inspired woman of God, and someone who should be celebrated and uplifted. She recently passed into the life everlasting, and it caused me to take time to reflect. As a church that is striving continuously to Become Christ in the Community to transform lives, relations, and conditions, it is imperative we build our faith through our music using songs that are not only relevant, but move us to participate generously in the work of justice, peace, and caring for our neighbor. Shirley’s words continue to inspire me, and I hope you will join me in honoring her work for the Kingdom of God.
Small Group Highlight
The Gift of Sharing Food
Written by Pastor Casey

The Cheaper by the Dozen small group met together on Feb 22 for our monthly cooking session. I co-lead this small group with Sheri Vahey, and this month, Jeanne Weiss and Betsy Burns provided our menus: Homestyle Chicken & Biscuits and Chicken Chile White Chili.

Since our group began in the fall of 2019, we have made it a practice of ours to purchase extra supplies so that we could pack extra meals to take to neighbors of ours and to stock the “Chicken Soup Squad” freezer at church for our congregational care ministers to utilize as they visit congregants who need meal assistance.

As we cut out biscuits, hand-shredded chicken, and simmered sauces, I asked our small group how they saw the work of cooking and sharing meals together as an act of living generously. The conversations went far beyond our monthly small group gatherings; folks recalled their service with gleaning vegetables from grocery stores for Bothell Community Kitchen, sharing meals with next door neighbors, and receiving meals when they themselves were sick.

Karen Davis took food to a neighbor recently and then received a pleasant surprise the next day when her neighbor brought over a plate of cookies to say thank you. Jeanne Weiss recalled two months back in 2011 when she had injured her foot and folks from the congregation generously brought her meals. She didn't care what the meals were—she was just as happy with peanut butter & jelly sandwiches as she was with casseroles—but she simply asked that people eat with her when they dropped off meals.

I forget who taught it to me, but I once learned that the nature of meaningful gift-giving requires that a relationship be in place. When an item passes from one person’s hand to another’s but they are strangers with no past and no future together, then it is merely a transaction—and those transactions are often needed in our world where people struggle to acquire basic necessities for living. But a true gift is an exchange between two people in a relationship together and the value of the gift is increased exponentially because of the relationship. When folks sat down to share a meal with Jeanne, the gift of the food was made
Whether you’ve been reading the Bible since January 1st or just found out about the #ONEyear challenge, feel free to pick up today & join us.

There’s no shame if you miss a day, just hop back in where you left off!

sweeter because of the friendship and fellowship... and some of her closest church friendships today started back in 2011 because of those meals shared together!

“It’s amazing how food can build community,” says Kim Rickleton. “Sometimes it’s hard to be on the receiving end of a gift of food, and I’ve been on both sides.” For Barb Donovan, it was the experience of first receiving a gift that taught her what it meant to truly give generously to others.

After the January small group cooking session, Sheri Vahey took a bag of prepped meals (tater tot casserole and Italian meatballs) to two of our church members who come to church regularly but whose health care otherwise makes participation in church activities sparse. Sheri was able to spend time in their home and talk with them for much longer than they normally can do on Sunday mornings. Sheri discovered that “sharing food with them became a catalyst for relationship-building.”

Generosity is a wonderful thing on its own—but it becomes even more powerful when an act of generosity leads to transformed relationships!

Photo (above): Cheaper by the Dozen enjoying the fruits of their labor.
Some Call This Home
Written By Drew Hogan

You know these people from front rows on first Sundays, and the ones that make you pizzas and pies. They may be dashing down the hall or sitting together after service showing each other funny memes. These people even sleep here from time to time at lock-ins. These people are the youth.

You may have known some of them since they were ‘this tall’ and others you may have never actually seen in your life. Regardless, 10 of these students, in particular, call this place home and because of that, they’re choosing to go deeper in their faith and considering membership in the church.

What would make you call church your home?

Could it be the people? Could it be this is a place you encounter God? Could it be where you feel safe or welcomed, no matter who you are or what questions or doubts you have?

The thing I love about leading Confirmation is that our students get to own their faith that people around them have influenced. For the past 5 months, we’ve gotten to wrestle with some big questions and talk about what Bothell UMC has done and continues to do. They’ve looked at what it means to be a member of Bothell UMC and live out their faith in their lives and considered the people that have impacted their journey. It is the sum of all these things that helps them say, “This is my church home and I want to be a part of it.”

This April 19th, these confirmands will be joining Bothell UMC. A few will join through baptism and others through confirming the baptismal vows that their parents took many moons ago. We look forward to worshiping with you and celebrating all that God has done in and through these students’ lives in the journey of calling this their faith and church home.
CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

New Members Class & Dessert
Sunday, March 1 | 6pm | Clergy Office

Saturday Duo
10 Great Dates & Kids’ Night Out
March 28 | 5-8pm | learn more at bothellumc.org/saturday-duo

State of Our Church
Review of 2019, Looking ahead into 2020
March 31 | Time TBD

New Members Class & Dessert
Sunday, April 5 | 6pm | Clergy Office

United Methodist Women Spring Tea
Saturday, April 18 | 1pm

Climate Change Display in Narthex
Sunday, April 19 through Saturday, May 16

CanDo 5K
Sign up to run with “RUN BUMC” at www.cando5k.org
Saturday, April 25 | Race starts at 8:30am

Saturday Duo
10 Great Dates & Kids’ Night Out
April 25 | 5-8pm | learn more at bothellumc.org/saturday-duo

For the full calendar go to bothellumc.org/calendar

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 5 | Services at 8am, 9am, and 10:30am

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 9 | 7pm | Sanctuary

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 10 | 7pm | Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast
Saturday, April 11 | 9am

Easter Services
Sunday, April 12 | 6am, 8am, 9am, and 10:30am

learn more at bothellumc.org/easter
Create a CLEAN HEART for me, God put a NEW faithful spirit deep inside me!
Psalm 51:10 (CEB)