



FROM OUR PASTOR'S DESK

The Power of Companionship

Elementary school children were grappling with pressing issues in the world. Questions like, "How can we solve the problem of global warming?" or "How can we aid efforts to quit smoking?" were on their minds. However, the most daunting challenge they identified was the pervasive issue of loneliness.

Here are some of the solutions the children proposed: "Find lonely people and ask for their names and addresses. Then ask non-lonely people for their names and addresses. Publish them in the newspaper when the numbers on both lists are equal." (Kalani, age 8) "Prepare a dish that prompts people to ask, 'How are you?' or 'How was your day?' when eaten." (Max, age 9) Perhaps the most heart-wrenching solution for loneliness came from Brian, age 8, who suggested: "Sing. Dance. Read a book. (Whenever I feel like nobody loves me, I do this.)" His perspective reflects the profound difficulty in addressing loneliness, implying a sense of hopelessness in finding a solution.

In Genesis chapters 1 and 2, during the creation of the universe and humanity, God repeatedly affirmed the goodness of His creation. However, there was one aspect that He deemed not good: Adam's aloneness. In Genesis 2:18, God remarked, "It is not good for the man to be alone," indicating His concern for Adam's solitude. Eden was abundant with various fruit trees and filled with gold and precious stones, yet God was troubled by Adam's loneliness. This was before the fall, within an intimate relationship where

no barriers existed between God and man. Despite this closeness, there remained a palpable void, an emptiness that even God could not fill—a space that could only be completed by the presence of another person.

This narrative suggests that even in a state of spiritual and material fulfillment, human connection remains essential for true fulfillment. It reflects a void within us that cannot be filled by wealth, success, busy activities and events, or even spiritual practices alone. This emptiness, termed 'loneliness,' can only be assuaged through meaningful relationships with others. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39)

Blessings,

Pastor Chan



WELCOME AUTUMN...

Well, the calendar says it is 'fall' even if the thermometer doesn't ... but it's also the season Liberty UMC springs back from the summer break!

We have a lot of activities resuming in September:

- **Liberty United Women in Faith**
 - Meeting Tues., Sept. 2, 10 AM, Memorial Hall
- **United Methodist Men**
 - Meeting Tues., Sept. 2, 10 AM, Conference Room
- **Bodacious Women Bible Study**

- Meeting, Tues., Sept. 9, 10 AM, Memorial Hall
- **Adult Sunday Study Resumes**
 - Sunday, Sept. 13, 8:45 AM, Memorial Hall
- **Ad Council Meeting**
 - Sun., Sept. 13, 11:45 AM, Conference Room
- **Choir Practice Resumes with a change in schedule!**
 - Sundays, 9:30 AM, Memorial Hall
 - Other changes announced later

Both the **Zoom Women's Study** (Tues. 6:15 PM) and **Hand & Foot** (Thur. 4 PM) continue as well!

There's a place for everyone, join in. Watch the webpage calendar for updates on Team/Committee meetings and other events.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Sunday, September 27th is the Liberty UMC Shoebox Packing Party. Thanks to our program coordinator, Linda Holt, for all her hard work in stocking the Shoebox 'store' (found in the nursery), and for this year's sturdy plastic boxes. No folding needed!

All boxes are ready, stocked with the basic eight items; #2 pencils, sharpener, eraser, glue stick, 6" bracelet-ruler, scissors,

colored pencils and a flashlight (no batteries needed).

Our Liberty Shoebox store is stocked with lots of items to begin your box, from stuffed animals, harmonicas, soccer balls to personal hygiene items.

Choose a box, shop the store for a headstart and fill the remaining space with loads of fun, Fun, ***FUN*** for your 'Christmas Child'.

Want to take part but can't get out enough to shop in person? Consider building a Shoebox online, it's a real bargain!

To reach the Liberty UMC Shoebox on-line page type the following link in your web browser:

<https://sampur.se/4jzC9V7>

Or scan the QR code below:



Our online goal for 2026 is **30** boxes, along with the **100** physical boxes we will collect in church, for a total of 130 boxes.

Online boxes are \$30 per box, which includes the \$10 shipping cost, needed for every box.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET?

Pastor Chan has begun home visits and there are spaces available in his calendar.



SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 AM

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with Singing? Know that the Lord, he is God! (Ps. 100:1-3a, ESV)