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MAY 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dearest Faith.

This week I've been reflecting a bit on those verses from Acts, chapter 2 about fellowship in the early Christian church, and how the early Christians "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

What a beautiful picture those words paint of living into fellowship and community, of being the church. It looks like taking care of each other's needs, sharing food, and worshiping together. It looks like joy. I'm so grateful for Faith UMC where we get to live out joyful fellowship together.

Did you know that we're planning a meal-sharing ministry? Once a month we're going to prepare food to take to the Bethel House to feed whoever is hungry. I'm excited that our church has such a heart for people in need, and I'm also looking forward to our time together, preparing the food because I believe it will be an opportunity for joyful fellowship together. We'll be announcing the details of this new ministry in the coming weeks, but please let me know if you want to be involved.

I'm grateful for the Faith UMC community, and I'm thankful for all of the ways we get to live out joyful fellowship together.

Grace and peace, Jed



MESSAGE FROM LAY LEADER - SUSAN TRANTHAM

"Wake Up Call"

Up on Trantham Hill every morning at 7 AM, we hear the sound of the Evergreen whistle and the trickle of what seems to be running water. Shortly after, I feel the touch of a cool nose and nudge on my arm (Scooter, not Gerald) and the smell of a robust Folger's coffee, which you can almost taste. The sun peeks through the blinds letting us know it is time to rise and shine!

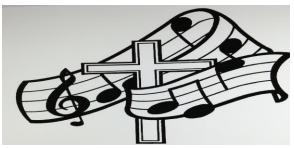
I love early morning. It is a time when the mind is temporally free from the stress that awaits us as the day unfolds. It can be a time of thanksgiving and praise for a restful night and the opportunity of another day that God has given us. When we begin our day with thanksgiving, praise and a devotion, we might just find that the day is just a little bit easier to navigate!

I would ask that you use the following prayer to begin your day this month –

"New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us a desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen!" (From the Book of Worship)

Grateful to rise and shine,

ST



RICK'S REFRAIN

I try to always be on time for appointments, meetings, meals, etc. Usually, I am a few minutes early. But yesterday, I arrived for the Administrative Council meeting at 11:57 a.m. When nobody else had shown up by a little after noon, I rechecked my schedule. Being on time is great, but two days early seems excessive. The aforementioned meeting is set for Thursday, not Tuesday.

I remembered that I had a meeting before an activity to attend with Kay. That is true for Thursday. Having had a lot of birthdays seems to have affected my memory. I've been known to say, "I used to have a memory, but I forgot where it went." The point is, I need to consult the book, the one containing my schedule.

That brings to mind another Book that should be consulted before decision making. We have multiple copies and copious translations in our house, but don't always consult them when we should. Time is precious and seems to pass more rapidly with accumulating years. A couple of verses in Hebrews seem to put time in perspective for me.

"Everyone has to die once, then face the consequences. Christ's death was also a one-time event, but it was a sacrifice that took care of sins forever. And so, when he next appears, the outcome for those eager to greet him is, precisely, salvation." (Hebrews 9:27-28 The Message)

Yes, time is important. Personal responsibility and integrity demand that we make the best use of it. But God's time doesn't follow our schedule, and one day time will cease. Until God calls time, I want to use the precious commodity to glorify Him. Whether my

personal time on earth ends, or Jesus returns for His children first, I pray for direction, guidance and opportunities. With John the Revelator, I repeat, "Yes! Come, Master Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20b The Message)



BETH'S MISSION MESSAGE

Church leadership team met to discuss creating a new to us mission project to assist Pastor Jed in his ordination process. The district has challenged us to create an outreach program. After much discussion we have decided to assemble sandwiches to donate to Bethel House for them to give to folks that need something to eat. This will probably start this summer but keep your eyes and ears open.

PPRC - FROM BETH

Great tidings of great joy! Pastor Jed has been appointed to be our pastor for another year!!



Stewardship News as of April 28, 2023

I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with my Prayers, my Presence, my Gifts, my Service, and my Witness."

2023 Budget \$50,519.00

Needed through 3/26/23 for budget \$17,176.46 Received to date for budget \$12,391.00 Behind Budget \$4,785.46 Paid out to date for budget \$13,170.21

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!



MAY 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM WORSHIP 11 AM

Smokey has Sunday School lessons for children ages 4 to 12 and Mark has adult lessons each week.



MAY 14 - MOTHER'S DAY

The modern holiday was first celebrated in 1907, when Anna Jarvis held the first Mother's Day service of worship at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Andrew's Methodist Church now holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Her campaign to make Mother's Day a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the vear her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. She and another peace activist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe had been urging for the creation of a "Mother's Day For Peace" where mothers would ask that their husbands and sons were no longer killed in wars. 40 years before it became

an official holiday, Ward Howe had made her Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870, which called upon mothers of all nationalities to band together to promote the "amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace." Anna Jarvis wanted to honor this and to set aside a day to honor all mothers because she believed a mother is "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world".

In 1908, the U.S. Congress rejected a proposal to make Mother's Day an official holiday, joking that they would also have to proclaim a "Mother-in-law's Day". However, owing to the efforts of Anna Jarvis, by 1911 all U.S. states observed the holiday, with some of them officially recognizing Mother's Day as a local holiday (the first being West Virginia, Jarvis' home state, in 1910). In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.

Although Jarvis, who started Mother's Day as a liturgical service, was successful in founding the celebration, she became resentful of the commercialization of the holiday. By the early 1920s, Hallmark Cards and other companies had started selling Mother's Day cards. Jarvis believed that the companies had misinterpreted and exploited the idea of Mother's Day and that the emphasis of the holiday was on sentiment, not profit. As a result, she organized boycotts of Mother's Day, and threatened to issue lawsuits against the companies involved. Jarvis argued that people should appreciate and honor their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards Jarvis protested at a candy makers' convention in Philadelphia in 1923, and at a meeting of American War Mothers in 1925. By this time, carnations had become associated with Mother's Day, and the selling of carnations by the American War Mothers to raise money angered Jarvis, who was arrested for disturbing the peace.



May 18 – Ascension Day is the Christian belief, reflected in the major Christian creeds and confessional statements, that Jesus ascended to Heaven after his resurrection, where he was exalted as Lord and Christ, sitting at the right hand of God. The Gospels and other New Testament writings imply resurrection and exaltation as a single event. In Acts, Jesus' ascension is situated on the fortieth day counting from the resurrection in the presence of eleven of his apostles.

In Christian art, the ascending Jesus is often shown blessing an earthly group below him, signifying the entire Church. The Feast of the Ascension is celebrated on the 40th day of Easter, always a Thursday.



MAY 20 - ARMED FORCES DAY

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense.



May 28 – Pentecost has its roots in the Greek word 'pentecoste,' which means '50th day.' Pentecost is a major festival in the Christian church and is celebrated by believers on the Sunday that falls on the 50th day of Easter.

It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

Many Christian denominations provide a special liturgy for this holy celebration. Since its date depends on the date of Easter, Pentecost is a "moveable feast".



May 29 – WHIT MONDAY or Pentecost Monday, also known as Monday of the Holy Spirit, is the holiday celebrated the day after Pentecost, a moveable feast in the Christian liturgical calendar. It is moveable because it is determined by the date of Easter.



MAY 31 - MEMORIAL DAY

Originally known as **Decoration Day** is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place American flags on the graves of military personnel in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States.

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on

May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the Civil War. This national observance was preceded by many local ones between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it. However, in 2022, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credited Mary Ann Williams with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers -Union and Confederate" with flowers.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The World Wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1971, Congress standardized the holiday as "Memorial Day" and changed its observance to the last Monday in May.

Two other days celebrate those who have served or are serving in the U.S. military: Armed Forces Day (which is earlier in May), an unofficial U.S. holiday for honoring those currently serving in the armed forces, and Veterans Day (on November 11), which honors all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

5 – Betty Gant

13 - Frances Scruggs

17 - Samuel Tate

18 - Earl Cogdill



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

6 - Gerald & Susan Trantham

7 – Charles & Carolyn Taylor

31 - Earl & Bina Cogdill

Please update your directory information that my email has had to be changed to:

ilf25c@gmail.com

My other contact information remains the same. Judy