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JUNE 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dearest Faith,

A question for you during this first week of the Pentecost season: how do *you* look and listen for the movement of the Holy Spirit? Sometimes the Spirit moves in powerful and noticeable ways like the "blowing of a violent wind" or "tongues of fire" (Acts 2:2-3). Often, though, the Spirit may sound more like a "gentle whisper" (1 Kings 19:12). If you're like me, you have to really pay attention to hear gentle whispers.

The belief that the Spirit moves in and around us, guiding us and empowering us is commonly held in Methodism, but in the 18th century, some found the idea controversial. Some accused John Wesley and the early Methodists of *enthusiasm*, which was a derogatory term at that time used to describe people who claimed they received special revelations from God.

Of course, Wesley rejected this *enthusiasm*, but he argued that the Spirit was active in the lives of believers, transforming us inside and out as we respond to God's grace. And the evidence of this activity was the fruit of the Spirit that we read about in Galatians 5: "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

If we want to know if the Spirit is up to something, we look for the fruit. If something leads to division or harm, then it probably isn't from the Spirit. But where there is growth in love for God and neighbor, there we find the work of the Spirit.

My prayer for us as we enter into this season of Pentecost is that we continue to look and listen for love and joy and peace, and all those good fruits of the Spirit, and that we - the people of Faith United Methodist Church - continue to grow in our love for God and our neighbors. Happy Pentecost!

Grace and peace, Jed

MESSAGE FROM LAY LEADER - SUSAN TRANTHAM

"Hear, ye children, the instructions of a father." (Proverbs 4:1)

Recently I was having a sleepless night. I headed to the upstairs landing and started thumbing through a collection of vintage Daily Guidepost devotion books. I came across one for Father's Day written by Oscar Greene.

"My interview for a security clearance was going well. The interviewer and I liked each other. Then she asked, "tell me about your father." Without thinking, I answered, "I never knew my father." The interviewer blushed and passed quickly to the next question.

Perhaps it was my hunger for warmth, attention and companionship that triggered my blunt response. My parents divorced before I was two. Mother remarried when I was seven. My stepfather was an excellent provider who felt that giving encouragement and praise was silly and unnecessary. From time to time, I wondered about my "real" father, but this was curiosity rather than yearning. Over the years, I made no attempt to find him. Now I wrote to my mother to let her know about my angry feelings.

I received my security clearance; I also received a letter from Mother. "I can understand your anger, son" she wrote, "Try not to be too critical. Try to remember all the fine people who reached out to help you."

My thoughts raced back to the Reverend Gardiner M. Day, our minister, who gave me a job during the Great Depression; to Edward Welch, my high school English teacher, who nurtured my talent for public speaking while teaching me the joys of reading and writing; to John B. Clark, my high school principal, who helped me get into college with a much-needed scholarship; to Herbert Kenny, arts editor at *The Boston Globe*, who hired me to be a book reviewer; and to Dave McKinney, the aerospace engineer who selected me to serve in the Project Gemini space program.

Suddenly, I was aware that I had many fathers, caring men who guided and encouraged me, each in his own way. So, on this Father's Day, I give thanks to my Father in heaven, to the father I never knew, to my stepfather, and to all the fatherly men who have touched my life."

And for us, it is with love, respect, and gratitude that we acknowledge the men in our lives who have given us life and love, who have nurtured and cared for us, and have been a source of strength and wisdom. May God bless you on and on!



RICK'S REFRAIN

Sunday, May 28 was Pentecost Sunday on the Liturgical Calendar. It was also part of Memorial Day weekend. Both emphases carry significant meaning for me. Selecting music for these is a task full of promise. I planned to play Mark Hayes' arrangement of "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" for the prelude. This is the Navy Hymn and has a lyric of praise and contemplation:

Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the restless wave.

Who bids the mighty ocean deep—Its own appointed limits keep;

O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain O-er which our traffic runs amain

By mountain pass or valley low, Wherever, Lord, our brethren go,

Protect them by Thy guarding hand From every peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the Father sent To spread abroad the firmament;

O Wind of heaven, by Thy might Save all who dare the eagle's flight:

And keep them by Thy watchful care From every peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and pow'r, Our brethren shield in danger's hour;

From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them wheresoe'er they go;

Thus, evermore shall rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

Stanza 3, written by Robert Nelson Spencer, and Stanza 4, written by William Whiting speak to the Holy Spirit's watchcare over those who seek His guidance. On this Pentecost Sunday, we celebrated the office of the Holy Spirit as our advocate and friend and "ever present help in time of trouble."

All too often, we don't seem to call on the Lord except when troubles come our way, but we should remember that He is always there. He is watching out for us and yearning for fellowship with us.

I also planned on singing "Come, Holy Spirit" for this special service. The choir sang this John W. Peterson song last year and since we don't have a choir at present, I planned to sing it as a solo. I think it captured some of the excitement of the day and this particular emphasis.

This song was published in 1971 and was a timely setting. But how much more so in our world of turmoil and decay are the words today: "Come, Holy Spirit, Revive the Church today!"



BETH'S MISSION MESSAGE

There has been a lot of talk about the closure of the Canton paper mill. Over 1000 people are losing jobs. The food pantries will be strained to assist the affected members of our county. If you want to help you can make monetary donations or bring food offerings and I will make sure they get delivered. Prayers are always a good thing also.



Stewardship News as of May 29, 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 to date for budget	\$22,228.36
Received to date for budget	\$16,176.00
Behind Budget	\$ 6,052.36
Paid out to date for budget	\$16,443.43

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!

HVAC Update – On May 28th, the Leadership Team voted to accept the bid from Parkway Heating and Air to replace our 2 units. The cost of the project is \$16,127.00. Installation will take place sometime between June 2 -6.

On June 25th following the morning worship service, we will meet to discuss any updates regarding disaffiliation from the UMC.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for our August 13th Homecoming. We will have a covered dish meal following the worship service. Rev. Jed Tate will have our morning message. Please invite family and friends to join you for this time of celebration for our church.



JUNE 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.

JUNE 4 - **Trinity Sunday** is the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Christian liturgical calendar, and the Sunday of Pentecost in Eastern Christianity. Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

JUNE 8 - Corpus Christi is a feast day that celebrates the belief and the tradition of the transubstantiation of Christ's body and blood to bread and wine in the Eucharist Sacrament. This solemnity is celebrated in many different countries around the world and is celebrated the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, or about two months after Easter. The rite of Corpus Christi not only honors the death and celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but it is also an important feast day that allows all participants to stand in awe of the power of the Eucharist and the belief in the resurrection of Christ.

JUNE 14 - Flag Day, also called National Flag Day, in the United States, a day honoring the national flag, observed on June 14. The holiday commemorates the date in 1777 when the United States approved the design for its first national flag.



20 Facts about the American Flag:

- 1. Pennsylvania is the only state that observes Flag Day as a state holiday.
- 2. The flag has been changed 27 times. The final star, for Hawaii, was added in 1960.
- 3. The flag is normally flown from sunrise to sunset.
- 4. The flag should not be flown at night without a light on it.
- 5. The first time the flag was flown after being adopted was on Aug. 3, 1777, in Rome, New York.
- 6. The designer of the American flag was Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence as a delegate from New Jersey.
- 7. Betsy Ross sewed the first American flag.
- 8. There are six American flags on the moon. Five are standing, but Neil Armstrong's fell over.
- 9. The flag should not be flown in the rain or inclement weather.
- 10. After a tragedy or death, the flag is flown at half-staff for 30 days. It's called "half-staff" on land, and "half-mast" on a ship.
- 11. When your flag is old and has seen better days, it is time to retire it. Old flags should be burned or buried.
- 12. The Flag Code bans the use of the flag as clothing. That's right, not USA T-Shirts, bandanas or bikinis.
- 13. If you like to study flags, then you are a Vexillologist!
- 14. The colors of the flag have meaning. Red stands for hardiness and valor. White symbolizes purity and innocence. Blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.
- 15. An American flag should never touch the floor or the ground.

- 16. When displayed on a wall or window the blue field should be in the upper left corner.
- 17. The military folds the flag with 13 folds, each with symbolic meaning.
- 18. 50 flags fly 24 hours a day around the Washington monument.
- 19. 95% of U.S. flags are made in the U.S.A.
- 20. The U.S. flag always flies at the top of a staff above any other flag.

JUNE 18 - Father's Day is

a holiday honoring one's father, or relevant father figure, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. The single most common date among world countries is the third Sunday of June, which was founded in the state of Washington, United States by Sonora Smart Dodd in 1910.

JUNE 25 – After morning worship, meeting to discuss any updates regarding disaffiliation from the UMC.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Donna McDonald
- 16 Lynn Mintz
- 18 Charles Taylor
- 26 Donna Wheeler
- 30 Lynn Scarborough



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

8- Steve & Lynn Scarborough 23 - Thurman & Trudy Blaine

Regrettably Faith folks/friends who celebrated a birthday or anniversary in May did not receive a card due to technology glitches and human malfunction. It is hoped that each of you had a wonderfully blessed special day.