



The Faith Circuit Rider

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From the Pastor



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Scripture Thought:



*“A new command I give you: **Love** one another. As I have **loved** you, so you must **love** one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love** one another.”*

John 13:34-35

We are in a very divisive season in our country and in our denomination. Emotions are running high. In the midst of the conflict, where do we find peace? Throughout the month of February, we will be exploring the way of peace. The sermon series is entitled Pursuing Peace. Along with key passages of scripture, we will be using concepts from the book “The Anatomy of Peace, Resolving the Heart of Conflict” (The Arbinger Institute) as our guide. I encourage you to spend time in personal reflection during the month of February, examining your own heart. Do you have a heart of peace? Or sometimes do you have a heart of war?

I encourage you to use *An Examen in the Wesleyan Tradition* as a way to connect with God and your own heart. This will be a great way to transition into the season of Lent. This season of repentance begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26th. Stay tuned about plans for worship that day.

I want to thank Mike Bostic for delivering the message when I was away. His message on mending old relationships and making new relationships is crucial for us. He encouraged us to make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ. Read once again these words from scripture that formed the basis of his message. They are Jesus’ words to us.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35

*Grace and peace,
Pastor Sharon*

— John Wesley “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

An Examen in the Wesleyan Tradition

(developed by Bishop Ken Carter)

Grace

I begin today by claiming my identity as one who is created in the image of God. I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

I am of sacred worth and am uniquely gifted.

When I come to myself—the truth of who I am—I experience blessing.

I reflect on those persons who have been a part of my life today, who have seen this in me, who have encouraged me.

Have I really been attentive to them?

Have I fully accepted their gifts?

I stay with these encounters for a moment.

I see the faces of these persons and listen to their voices again.

Repentance

Next, I see the moments of my day that I regret. I rely upon the fruit of the Holy Spirit, especially love, peace and patience, for help in returning to these moments. This is uncomfortable. And yet repentance that is of God is a return to the love God wants for me. It is the journey home. For a moment, I consider the ways I am stuck, or lost. Why do I resist change? I ask for the courage to return to God.

Confession

As I reflect on the day, I ask God to reveal the harm that I have done to others and the harm I have done to myself. I make an honest assessment of my failures and mistakes. Where I have not loved my neighbor as myself, I confess that I have sinned. What is the sin that separates me from those closest to me? How does arrogance, judgmentalism, ego or privilege distort the way I see others? How have I buried my birthright gifts and refused to enjoy and share them?

Faith

I ask for the gift of God's healing and renewing grace. I set aside my own claims of righteousness or merit. In faith I say yes to Jesus Christ, who loves me and gave himself for me. I place my trust in Jesus Christ alone for the gift of salvation. And for a moment, I consider how I am actually living by faith. Do I find it difficult to trust? I return to the good news that I embraced when I first began to walk with Jesus. I ask that God would empower me to live this day in faith.

Love

God has created me. God knows me. God's sacrificial love in the crucified Jesus is for my salvation. When I have received the gift of faith, I become a more loving person. And when I have placed my faith and trust in Jesus Christ, I become a part of his body, which is the church. I boldly ask that I will be made perfect in love in this life—that I will love God, and love the people I encounter each day in God. I ask that my love for God would grow as I read the scriptures, spend time in prayer and receive communion as often as possible. I ask God to give me a greater love for others, especially those to whom I have made promises and covenants, and those with whom I have differences. I ask God for the happiness is taking the daily risk of living in grace, practicing repentance and confession, and growing in a faith that expresses itself through love. Amen.

From the Lay Leader

January 2020

“But What Can I Do?”

Have you ever spoken those words? No, one person can't do it all and you alone can't change the world, but you can change a life. And you did in 2019!

Problems around us are staggering and sometimes seem overwhelming. Remember, God does the work of what seems to be the impossible. We can pray for miracles and be assured God's will can be done.

We are God's hands and feet on earth. We are His partners in filling the world with His love. Listen carefully for His voice to instruct you each day. He will bring opportunities daily for you to be a blessing to others. God has a plan to use your life in ways you can't imagine. This plan will bring glory to Him.

Let's commit to trust God to help us do everything He is calling us to do and do it joyfully!

Susan

Treasurer's Report



January 25, 2020

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

2020 Budget \$49,387.00

Needed to date for budget	\$ 2,963.22
Received to date for budget	\$ 1,743.00
Behind Budget	\$ 1,220.22
Paid out to date for budget	\$ 2,509.63

JIF Class



This month we will be continuing the study, Our Father, The Imprint of a Prayer.

Thanks to Susan for being the super facilitator for this series. The class members have been reading the lessons and contributing to the discussion. The participation of all has been valuable to this series.

A Crown of Glory, based on Proverbs 16:31, will be our resource for the Season of Lent.

The JIF Class welcomes our two newest members, Walter Lee and David McKay.

Please join us at 9:45 on Sunday mornings. You'll be glad you came.



February is known for Valentine's day so be kind to those you love and be kinder to God's people in your food donations to Haywood Christian Ministries. And make love offerings to BEAR closet.

Beth



**SERVING MEALS
TO THE HOMELESS**

OPEN DOOR - 32 Commerce Street,
Waynesville, Saturday,
February 15th at 5:30PM.

Colorful Ladies of Faith

Colorful ladies will color Feb 20th at 10 a.m. until Noon.



Visit our website at fumcwnc.org

It is updated weekly with the entire service from the greeting, announcements, prelude, prayer and hymns to the sermon, benediction and postlude!



If any changes or additions need to be made please contact me by calling 828-456-6944 or email jlf21@charter.net. Thanks, Judy

Flowers for Faith



It's time to sign-up for weekly flowers for our Sanctuary in celebration, honor or memory of special people in our lives. You may sign the Flower Calendar on the Bulletin Board.

February Servants:



*Welcome
To our Church*

Greeters: Betty Gant

Educational Entrance: Committee of the UMM



Our church now has assistance for the hearing impaired. If you have trouble hearing the service, please pick up a hearing aid in the narthex.

Rev. Robo Calling

Please be reminded to contact **Rev. Robo (400-7947)** if you have sickness, death, or any prayer needs.

It is a privilege for your Faith family to share your burdens or prayer concerns and lift you in prayer.

February Celebrations



15-Kim Gardner



7-Jamie & Kim Gardner



"All the days
of the poor are
hard, but a
cheerful heart has
a **continual feast.**"

Proverbs 15:15, NRSV