



# July Cross Currents

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The Monthly Newsletter  
of St Paul's United  
Methodist Church

## **JULY MISSION FOCUS**

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine is a time that the youth will grow closer to Christ and each other as they fast together for 30 hours and raise funds to fight hunger. When you do the Famine you're challenging your youth to be part of something bigger than themselves. To take action for God's kingdom. To help save the lives of hungry kids. To permanently change the way your students see the world. Every Sunday until the famine on July 26<sup>th</sup> the youth will be stationed at the mission table to answer questions, hand out information, and collect donations for this amazing cause.

### **Your Donation will help in three ways:**

- Emergency response
- Recovery (helping in the wake of crisis)
- Long-term development

For more than six decades World Vision has learned that the best way to fight hunger is to give families the tools they need to put food on their own tables year-round.

World Vision's goal for children and families is food security. That means they can be confident about where their next meal is coming from — and that they get enough nutritious food to live an active, healthy life.

### **Specifically, this means that the funds you raise help World Vision:**

- Teach parents improved farming techniques
- Equip families to grow healthier, more abundant crops and livestock
- Provide access to clean water for nutritious harvests
- Run malnutrition centers when there's a food crisis
- Distribute emergency food supplies when there's a disaster

### **Where Hunger Exists:**

**There are 795 million chronically hungry people in the world. Where do they live?**

#### **The story behind the numbers**

- Asia has the highest number of hungry people . . . but it also has the biggest population.
- Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest *percentage* of hungry people.

There are over 200 million *fewer* hungry people in developing countries today than there were in the early 1990s.

#### **Typical foods in hunger-affected countries**

- Zambia: "mealie meal" (ground corn and water)
- Kenya: corn, beans
- Bangladesh: rice, lentils (a cousin of beans)
- Afghanistan: flatbread, yogurt
- China: rice, noodles
- Bolivia: potatoes, beans

Help us fight hunger and save the lives of children throughout the world! Your participation in this, whether through donations, participation in the famine, spreading the word, or learning more about hunger throughout the world will help continue the change World Vision wants to make!

~ Seth



## Pastor's Ponderings

Waiting is hard. I learned that at an early age. The seeming interminable wait dictated by my mom and dad while the "old living room" in our drafty old farmhouse warmed up enough for us to enter and see what Santa Claus had brought us on Christmas morning. The slow drag of weeks and months, as I waited for my orthopedic doctor to declare it was finally time to remove, for good, my brace and crutches and I could begin to run and play unencumbered like all my friends. Waiting is, indeed, hard.

I think those childhood "waits" that we experience serve to prepare us for the adult-sized, deeply significant waiting that we must endure as we grow older. And so, we continue to endure, continue to wait, now, as the clock continues its slow crawl toward February 2019, and the special General Conference (GC19). It is there that the lay and clergy

delegates of the United Methodist Church will convene to vote on the church's way forward, determining decisively the future of United Methodism.

Is schism inevitable? My heart aches at the possibility. However, we are a church already divided (globally, regionally and, yes, even here at St. Paul's). We are a church divided, not on doctrine or mission, but "on one question - whether LGBTQ persons are full members of the church and can serve as leaders at every level." <sup>1</sup>The ultimate question is whether the United Methodist Church can remain *united*, despite our divisions over this polarizing question, or not.

Tentatively, the full report from the Council of Bishops (COB) on what specific deliberations are facing the delegates at GC19 is expected to be released on July 8<sup>th</sup>. For now, we are told that the COB will be recommending for vote a One Church Plan. This model would provide unity without uniformity, allow for flexibility within specific missional contexts, and maintain the connectional nature of the United Methodist Church. More information will be available once the official report is released.

In that light, I am tentatively scheduling a Cuisine, Catch-up and Conversation Potluck for July 22<sup>nd</sup>, immediately following worship. At that time Donnie and I will convey up-to-date information about the way forward deliberations at GC19, and any other pertinent news.

In the meantime, I remain in earnest prayer for the continued unity of the UMC. While we are not perfect, God works in astounding ways throughout the world through this body of diverse UMC believers. I believe that schism would only harm the vital work of being the hands and feet of Christ in the world, and I believe that it would break God's heart. I am struck by the words of Ricky Harrison, a young man (millennial) who was a student at Duke Divinity School when he wrote them in 2015. They challenge me to think, as I hope they do for you.

"John Wesley...understood [schism's] threat and inherent evil. After considering the New Testament passages in which Paul writes against schism/division in the Body of Christ, Wesley wrote,

*'[Schism] is evil in itself. To separate ourselves from a body of living Christians, with whom we were before united, is a grievous breach of the law of love. It is the nature of love to unite us together; and the greater the love, the stricter the union. And while this continues in its strength, nothing can divide those whom love has united. It is only when our love grows cold, that we can think of separating from our brethren. And this is certainly the case with any who willingly separate from their Christian brethren. The pretenses for separation may be innumerable but want of love is always the real cause; otherwise they would still hold the unity of the Spirit in the bound of peace. It is therefore contrary to all those commands of God, wherein brotherly love is enjoined...'*

Wesley looked at the history of Christianity and saw that time and time again, people with a lack of love for one another split apart the Church. It begins with forming parties, groups, and cliques, surrounding ourselves with people who only think like us and believe the way we believe. It is the security which comes from not having others challenge our reading of the Gospel, question the way we talk about God, or call us out for the way we live our lives. When we isolate ourselves in silos and speak **about** 'those people' without ever actually speaking **to** 'those people,' when lines are drawn in the sand and 'we' fight against 'them,' when the Church is broken into sides and factions, then 'the love of many will wax cold.' Numerous excuses are given for such separation and schism, but 'want of love' is always the real cause."

To borrow an encouragement from St. Paul...dwell on these things.

Leslie

<sup>1</sup>Donald E. Messer, *Is Schism Inevitable?* (handout at Annual Conference, June, 2018)

<sup>2</sup>Ricky Harrison, *A Wesleyan View of Schism*. (<http://ummellinal.blogspot.com/2015/07/a-wesleyan-view-of-schism.html>)



"As Christians, we are all called to be pilgrims, navigating the way to God. For many this pilgrimage is figurative, a spiritual journey that deepens our awareness. Some, however, choose to undertake physical journeys to the lands most sacred to our tradition," a quote from Thomas Merton.

Pastor Leslie invites all who are interested in exploring a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to speak with her in Waddill Hall after church on July 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, from 11am - 11:30am. The trip is open to laity and clergy, and will take place from **Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> to Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**, with an optional extension trip to explore the wonders of Petra and the Dead Sea, **Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>**.

"It is a powerful, life-changing experience to walk the paths that Jesus walked," said Bishop Karen Oliveto. "It opens up the Bible and causes us to reflect more deeply on the stories that ground our faith. Join the Mountain Sky family as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This powerful trip will expand your knowledge of scripture and deepen your faith as we visit sacred sites, worship together, and encounter God in ancient places so central to our faith. Journey with us!"

This pilgrimage is with Educational Opportunities (EO). EO has provided educational Christian travel programs since 1974. The surprisingly reasonable trip cost includes airfare, hotel, all breakfasts and dinners, plus excellent transportation and guide to and from the sacred sites.



## A Message from Pastor Donnie

I have literally spent four hours trying to find a topic for this newsletter article. I have prayed, begging God for a topic, and all that has come to me is silence. I don't like silence. I think I don't like silence because it's good for me. In fact, just about everything I like isn't good for me. I love hamburgers, french fries, pizza and hotdogs. Maybe I should spit out anything that tastes good because it must be bad for me.

I think God remained silent through my pleading so that I would write about silence. If He did, it worked. I'm not the only person that doesn't like silence. Going through some of my training to become a pastor I was told that silent prayers should be forty-five seconds to one minute long. While some of you appreciate the extra time for silent prayer, there are others who scream to me through their fidgeting to begin my pastoral prayer.

Some people sleep with their televisions on while others listen to music while they read or are working. I constantly have my headphones on when I'm not at work, listening to books. Apparently, businesses don't think we like silence. The hotel I stayed at last month at Annual Conference piped in music throughout their lobby and hallways. When we call a business on the phone and are put on hold, they play music. What is it about silence that many of us disdain?

It's funny how much we talk about the weather when we are talking to people. I am so guilty of that. And do we ever talk about the weather. By the time I finish a morning of shopping I know what the weather is going to be for the rest of the day into the next year.

Many people have told me that when they are visiting someone in the hospital they don't know what to say. We often find it uncomfortable to have silence when we are visiting someone. There is this sense of obligation that we need to provide "small talk" lest we be rude. This practice of small talk often keeps us from having more meaningful conversations. Many people have opened up to me, telling me things they needed to say, because I remained silent so they could gather their thoughts.

For some of us, noise distracts us from thoughts that cause us anxiety and depression. Though noise can keep us from thinking about difficult situations, it can also keep us from coping with the situations that are causing our anxiety and depression. Constant noise and the lack of silence can create a vicious cycle of avoidance and depression.

My point is, for those of us that don't like silence, we need to learn to bring some silence into our lives. According to science, creating some time for silence can increase our quality of life significantly. From our job performance to our cognitive ability, from our relationships to our mental health. Quiet time is healthy.

Jesus sought solitude throughout His ministry. We find in Luke 5:15-16 after Jesus healed a man with leprosy that "...the report of his (Jesus') power spread even faster and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer. Mathew 14:13 says that when Jesus heard about the death of John the Baptist, "he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone.". One day Jesus spent the entire day healing in Galilee. Mark 1:35 tells us, "Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray." Jesus knew the importance of time alone in solitude and prayer.

I pray that all of us set aside time for silence. I pray that we use that time to pray, contemplate, and stay mentally healthy. And most important, I pray that all of us use silence to help us be in right relationship with God and our neighbors.



July is going to be another great month for music at St. Paul's. The choir is going to sing "Blessed is the Nation" by Lloyd Larson for our "July 4<sup>th</sup>" Sunday service on July 1<sup>st</sup>. On the second Sunday in July, we will get to hear two beautiful ladies' solos. Annie Marie Young and Clarine Smith will be singing for us. You won't want to miss them.

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, Laurie Gabriel will be back in town and she will bless us (again) with special music. She is cooking up some special songs for that day. You truly won't want to miss that Sunday of music.

The last two Sundays, we will get to hear Brian Marsh's Quartet sing and Rachel Ford will be singing for us again. We will also have a quartet from The Velvet Hill's Chorus (Sweet Adeline's) bless us with their singing.

July is a beautiful month of music at St. Paul's. Mark your calendar so you won't miss one Sunday!

May you have a blessed July and always remember that God is real,

Gayle Grace



## SPUMY,

Welcome to July! What an amazing month of June St. Paul's and the youth had! Vacation Bible School was a great success, and everyone involved did an amazing job making this mission in our church a memorable one for all the children. Thank you to the youth for creating and decorating the sanctuary for this amazing event. As July begins we will focus our attention on a mission that is close to all our youth's hearts: The 30 Hour Famine. To learn more about this amazing mission opportunity, check out the article on page 1.

### July:

July 1<sup>st</sup> - Patriotic Fair 10:15am-11:30am at Wesley House (outside)

Youth will create an obstacle course for the children, and help support with crafts and games.

July 8<sup>th</sup> - SPUMY Power Hour, 11-12pm

July 11<sup>th</sup> - Hiking at Bear Creek Park, 11am-1:30pm

July 15<sup>th</sup> - SPUMY Power Hour, 11-12pm

July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Youth Sunday in the Nursery, 9:30-10:30am & SPUMY Power Hour, 11-12pm

July 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> - 30 Hour Famine, 6pm July 26<sup>th</sup> - 6pm July 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's UMC

July 29<sup>th</sup> - Clean up Hospitality and Faith Day at the Rockies (TBD)

Thank you to our amazing congregation for your continued support for our young people in the church! They are our future, and you all are having a huge impact on their lives! For any questions or concerns please contact me at [spumy1@gmail.com](mailto:spumy1@gmail.com) or [sethamus69@gmail.com](mailto:sethamus69@gmail.com). Have a blessed month of July!

- Seth

# July Anniversaries

Diane & Tom Hance

July 4, 1989

29 Years

Paul & Ginny Fredell

July 14

## July Birthdays!

6<sup>th</sup>

JoAnne Clark

Clarine Smith

7<sup>th</sup>

Pat Nanninga

Alice Woollums

8<sup>th</sup>

Emerson Bowman

Linda Burnett

9<sup>th</sup>

Kristen Garnhart

Don Willsie

Wanda Wright

11<sup>th</sup>

Mary Coutts

12<sup>th</sup>

Mike Pfahl

13<sup>th</sup>

Bob Rickett

14<sup>th</sup>

Woody Woods

18<sup>th</sup>

Axel Witham

19<sup>th</sup>

Brett Hurlbut

Sally Jo Maisno

21<sup>st</sup>

Helen Bookman

Darlene Lundberg

22<sup>nd</sup>

Jim Mather

Lori Thom

23<sup>rd</sup>

Diane Hance

24<sup>th</sup>

Fay Lumpkins

Chris Rankin

25<sup>th</sup>

Jean Kitchens

28<sup>th</sup>

Ron Richter

29<sup>th</sup>

Nancy Butler

30<sup>th</sup>

Barbara Kafka



### FAITH COMMUNITY HEALTH MINISTRY

**PARISH NURSES** will be doing our Blood Pressure Clinic on Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> for our one session this month. We want to thank everyone who completed the Penrose Research Project data gathering! As soon as all the data is compiled, I will share the results. As a thank you, we were presented with a very complete First Aid Kit! Staff are determining where is the best place to stage the kit!

**July** is UV Safety Month! Ultraviolet eye protection matters! UV radiation can damage not only the skin of your eyelid but also the cornea, lens and other parts of the eye. Sunglasses can block 99-100% of both UVA and UVB rays, check label!

*“For the Lord God is a sun and shield and gives grace and glory. Psalm 84:11*

**REAR: Get Off It!** Even if you exercise, sitting too much undoes your good work. The most sedentary people are at highest risk of dying, according to a summary of 47 studies. Trade just two minutes of sitting time per hour with two minutes of light activity (even light housework or getting the mail) and you cut your risk of dying by one third, according to a 2015 study at the University of Utah School of Medicine.



# Schedule of Weekly Events

2018

- ◆ **Sunday**  
9:30a Worship  
10:30a Fellowship Time
- ◆ **Monday**  
7:00p Barbershop Chorus
- ◆ **Tuesday**  
1:00p Prayer group  
6:30p Over Eaters Anonymous
- ◆ **Wednesday**  
7:00a Men's Bible Study
- ◆ **Thursday**  
7:00p Nightingale Trio
- ◆ **Friday**
- ◆ **Saturday**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:00a Patriotic Fair	2	3	4 Office is closed for Independence Day	5	6	7
8 10:30a Blood Pressure Clinic	9 6:30p Trustees Meeting	10	11	12 6:30p Finance Meeting	13	14
15	Donnie away at school					21
22	23	24	25	26 30 Hour Famine	27	28
29	30	31				

The CC deadline is the 15th of each month, unless otherwise noted. For more information contact the Church office at 634-7046. We reserve the right to edit and condense submissions for publication.

**The Monthly Newsletter  
of St Paul's United  
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Place Label Here



**Grounded in Tradition, Growing in Faith**

**Mission Statement**

The mission of St. Paul's United Methodist Church is to enable people to see the light, receive the light, share the light of Jesus Christ.

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