



June 2020

Paula's Pondering



We have been looking at the three rules of Methodism. The first two seem really simple – do no harm and do all the good you can. But, as we found out in previous articles, they aren't

simple to practice. Sometimes, even without intending to, we do cause harm. And sometimes, even when we think we are doing a good thing, it turns out to unintentional harmful consequences.

As we've also seen, in order to have any hope at all of following these two rules, we must rely on God to guide us and to forgive us when we fail. And that leads us to the third and final rule of Methodism. As John Wesley wrote it – Attend to all the ordinances of God. He then went on to list some of those ordinances: public worship, studying scripture, fasting, taking Communion, and prayer. In other words, the third rule is to practice spiritual disciplines.

In a way, though, this rule just sounds legalistic. If I miss a day of reading scripture, have I broken the rule? Is it enough to just go to public worship and take Communion, or do I have to do every one of the ordinances? And if I do these things because I have to and dread the time I spend doing them, much like a 13-year old boy practicing the piano instead of playing baseball with his friends, have I followed the rule in spirit?

I much prefer the way Bishop Reuben Job interpreted this rule – stay in love with God. If we follow this rule, we will want to come to worship,

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we will want to spend time in prayer, we will want to study scripture. No longer will these things be a chore. Instead, we will look forward to them with joy because we know we will be spending time with the one we love.

Moreover, if we follow this rule – stay in love with God – we won't even need the other 2 rules. If we stay in love with God, we will want to please God, and we will value what God values. Since God loves people, indeed, all of his creation, we will want to care for it as well. We will want to do good and refrain from doing harm.

This is my last newsletter article for St. Mark's. Your new pastor, Rev. Sarah Wimberley, will be writing the articles now. So I leave you with the best advice I have – stay in love with God. For if you do, everything else will fall into place.

Blessings,
Pastor Paula



Upcoming Events

- 6/4 Leadership Council Meeting (ZOOM)
- 6/7 Communion
- 6/14 Flag Day
- 6/18 Leadership Council Meeting (ZOOM)
- 6/21 Father's Day
- 6/28 Pastor Sarah Wimberly's 1st Sunday

Sunday Sermons

- 6/7.....Tested Genesis 22:1-14
- 6/14.....Don't Go Back Exodus 14:11-12, Philippians 4:13
- 6/21.....Setting Out..... Genesis 11:31-12:5, Hebrews 11:8-12
- 6/28.....TBD

Birthdays

June

- 6/1 Arleta Mae Cahill
- 6/6 Amy Armstrong
- 6/12 Andreon Bell
- 6/17 Monte Barbour
- 6/17 Dick Berry
- 6/23 Greg Price
- 6/30 Chris Pauley
- 6/30 Rosemary Garten



Phone Prayer Chain

If you know of a member going to the hospital, have a need, a concern, or a joy, please call someone on the following list, starting at the top, if possible. Call any time, day or night. If the person you call is not at home, leave a message or call the next person on the list.

- Pat Townsend 373-3915 or 225-9459
- Rosemary Garten 427-5725 or 519-8500
- Carol Marcks 427-5725 or 560-5627
- Marilyn Berry 796-5789
- Lucille Bolen 560-5131
- Mary Branstad 796-9659 or 868-3752
- Ann Fiene 257-5214
- Linda Roberts 650-5131 or 853-3398
- Carol Buhrle 796-3630 or 225-8174

- Shirley Weaver 461-9224 or 716-1184
- Chris Pauley 571-3922
- Gayle Elliott 257-9655
- Arletta Cahill 600-6203
- Flora Costanza 914-8034
- Sandy Bower 373-5603
- Anna Inman (660) 232-1221
- Jackie McMenemy 461-7577
- Pat Prins 461-9226



Cowboy Joe was telling his fellow cowboys back on the ranch about his first visit to a big-city church.

"When I got there, they had me park my old truck in the corral," Joe began.
 "You mean the parking lot," interrupted Charlie, a more worldly fellow.

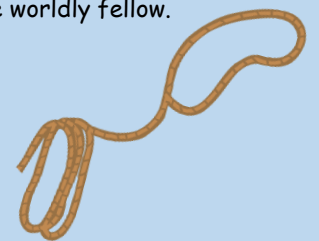
"I walked up the trail to the door," Joe continued.
 "The sidewalk to the door," Charlie corrected him.

"Inside the door, I was met by this dude," Joe went on.
 "That would be the usher," Charlie explained.

"Well, the usher led me down the chute," Joe said.
 "You mean the aisle," Charlie said.

"Then, he led me to a stall and told me to sit there," Joe continued.
 "Pew," Charlie retorted.

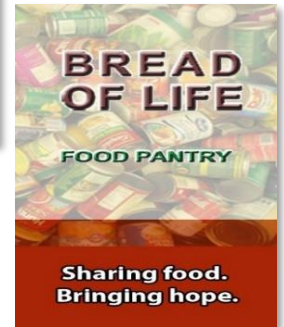
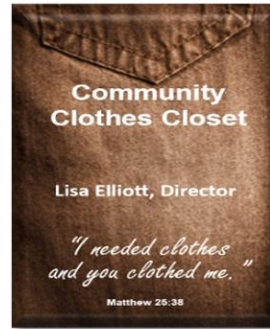
"Yeah," recalled Joe. "That's what that pretty lady said when I sat down beside her."



Outreach Ministries

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet have been temporarily closed due to the virus pandemic.

	MONTH	FAMILIES SERVED	PEOPLE SERVED	ITEMS OUT	ITEMS IN
Food Pantry	APR	MINISTRIES TEMPORARILY CLOSED. NO REPORTING			
Clothes Closet	APR				



Visit our website for updates!

Website: <http://stmumc.net/outreach-ministries/food-pantry-clothes-closet/>



Choose Your Friends Wisely

Community — a body of individuals who unite together in fellowship, sharing attitudes, interests, and goals.

Glance to your left, then to your right. Who's standing beside you? Would you consider them friends? Is the time that you spend together making all of you better people? Or do things you do together sometimes lead you to regret?

Anyone who walks with wise people grows wise. But a companion of foolish people suffers harm. [PROVERBS 13:20](#)

Relationships are like nutrition for your soul. Do the people closest to you make you healthier? Or do you binge on junk food together? You are directly influenced by the people you spend the most time with. Even if you feel like you're different from them right now, in five years... you won't be.

...that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. [1 CORINTHIANS 12:25-27](#)

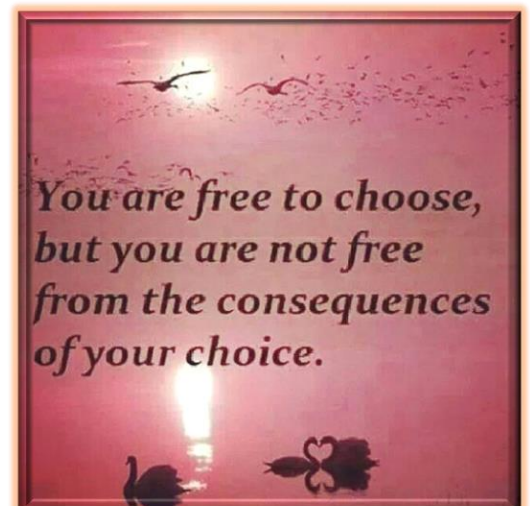
God made us to need each other. We all have different gifts and strengths, different failings and weaknesses. When we join together, we can look out for one another, help each other, encourage one another, and even challenge each other to grow.

Here are 3 simple things you can do to start building your community:

1. Cross the Street

Do you know your neighbors? If you live on the same street, or even in the same building, you already have something in common. Don't overthink this. Jesus loves your neighbor. Maybe you will too... and you just don't know it yet.

Challenge: Start a conversation with a handshake and, "I'm sorry, we haven't met before. My name is _____. What's yours?" Even if you're shy, you only have to be brave for 30 seconds.



2. Share an Experience

We all have things we need to talk about, challenges that would be helpful to process in conversation. And we all have something to offer, even if it's just a sympathetic ear.

Challenge: Invite a friend to do something together: share a meal, tackle a backyard project, or just take a walk. Talk about whatever. Just be honest... and get real.

3. Invite Deeper Friendships

The Bible reminds us again and again that we need relationships with people we can trust: Close friends who will encourage you, inspire you, challenge you, love you, and pray for you. And they need you to do the same for them.

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. [GALATIANS 6:10](#)

A Prayer for Our Fathers

If you are Dad or Granddad, you are deserving of blessing and honor for who you are and for all you do. No matter what your age, single or married, here is a prayer of blessing for you for every good work, every good word, and for every act of love you have ever offered on behalf of the ones you love:

Father, thank you for every father.
Please continue and complete your work in him,
granting that he may walk with you like Enoch,
believe you like Abraham,
obey you like Isaac,
wrestle with you like Jacob,
know your hand on his life like Joseph,
speak face-to-face with you like Moses,
win victories for you like Gideon,
speak boldly for you like Elijah,
worship you like David,
see you high and lifted up like Isaiah,
and carry Jesus' cross like Simon of Cyrene."

Amen

Happy
Father's
Day

