



Ashford Messenger

October 2018 | Newsletter of Ashford United Methodist Church

(Read the latest **Cross Connection** [here!](#))

Dates to Remember

10.7—Fall Blood Drive

“I Can” Sunday

World Communion Sunday

10.10 - 10.12—ACEC Garage Sale

10.13 & 10.20—All Church Workdays

10.23—Monthly Prayer Team Meeting

10.27—Peppermint Fair

Announcements (all clickable links)

Fitness @ 4

Help Our Youth

Meals on Wheels

Music Programs—Choir/Bells

Music Programs—Praise Band

Peppermint Fair

Praise Zumba

Real Men Read

School Volunteers

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Welcoming Ambassadors

God's Word Rebuilds

Pastor Irv White

Remember the TV show, *The Six Million Dollar Man*? For those of you too young to remember, it was a highly rated TV program in the mid 1970s about a test pilot who nearly lost his life after crashing in an experimental NASA aircraft. Being transformed into a cyborg (a bionic human being) with super-human strength saved his life. In the opening sequence of each weekly episode, we are told how Astronaut Steve Austin becomes *The Six Million Dollar Man*.

My favorite line in that opening sequence was spoken by Dr. Rudy Wells, the man who devised the plan to rebuild Austin. After determining they had the technology to save Austin, Wells said, “We can make him better than he was before—better; stronger; faster.”

If you are going to rebuild something, it is a good idea to try to make it better than it was before. The fact that something needs to be rebuilt is an indication that what was there before had some vulnerabilities.

When life crashes in on us; seemingly destroying us and leaving us for dead, isn't it great to know that God's Word can put us back together? It has a way of using our vulnerabilities to make us better, stronger, and faster. And, truth be told, a lot of us are spiritual cyborgs, having undergone some extensive repairs by the Word of God. Lord knows, I am one of them. I am better, stronger, and faster because of God's Word applied and magnified in me.

I think about the Apostle Paul who, in his letter to the church in Rome, wanted it known that he was not ashamed of the Gospel...

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October 1	Ceci Corredor, Nick Nicolau
October 2	Fred Gentry
October 10	Chris Norris
October 11	Farrah Hood
October 14	Shelby Corder, Calli Kluesner
October 15	Thu Nguyen
October 16	Hailey Auzenne
October 20	Hugh Saunders
October 21	Tracey Miller
October 22	Nadia Ammons
October 26	Tawana Goodwin
October 27	Chris Norton
October 29	Isabel Nicolau

Missing from the list? Let us know and we'll recognize you next month!

Infinite Treasure

The present moment is always full of infinite treasure. It contains far more than you can possibly grasp. Faith is the measure of its riches: what you find in the present moment is according to the measure of your faith. Love also is the measure: the more the heart loves, the more it rejoices in what God provides.

The will of God presents itself at each moment like an immense ocean that the desire of your heart cannot empty; yet you will drink from that ocean according to your faith and love.

—Jean-Pierre de Caussade

God's Word Rebuilds *(cont'd.)*

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

To be "ashamed" means to "feel a sense of shame in the presence of something." Shame represents marginalization. Shame represents being pushed off to the sidelines or diminished socially.

The Gospel doesn't shame—it mobilizes. The Gospel doesn't humiliate, it empowers. The Gospel doesn't depress, it impresses. The Gospel doesn't degrade, it upgrades. The Gospel doesn't destroy, it rebuilds.

God wants us better, stronger, and faster. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel because he understood that God's Word is full of power—the power to rebuild.

I challenge you to take God at His word in whatever situation you are experiencing and let His Word do what it was created to do—make you better, stronger, and faster.

World Communion Sunday A Celebration of Unity and Service by Joe Iovino (UMC.org, 2016)

On the first Sunday in October, United Methodist congregations join many Christian churches across the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday.

World Communion Sunday began as World-Wide Communion Sunday at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination (see [Presbyterian Mission Agency](#) website for more information).

Rev. Kerr appropriately chose the sacrament of Holy Communion to symbolize this unity.

"The term *Holy Communion* invites us to focus...on the holiness of our communion with God and one another," states *This Holy Mystery*, The United Methodist Church's official statement on the sacrament.

In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, which included all of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church, adopted World-Wide Communion Sunday. The global celebration occurs on the first Sunday in October.

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Being a Good Steward by Elizabeth Keahey

Definition of a steward: *"a person who manages another's property or financial affairs."*

I know we have heard this word many different times at church and we usually think of the word 'stewardship' as meaning 'money' and this is something that is not easy to change or rethink. Being a good steward is not simply giving 10% to your church and then your work is done. The reality of being a good steward is understanding that everything we possess is the Lord's. Everything we own is His...He has entrusted it to us. God has given us the responsibility to be good stewards of the world, to take care of His creation, which means everything: take care of animals, nature, the environment, etc. In Genesis 2:15, God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and guard it. He gave the responsibility to men and women to enhance and continue the care of this world. We still have that responsibility every day, but sometimes we get very distracted, and we don't do God's will. We can all contribute to a better world by respecting life and human, nature, and the environment. We need to remember this is God's creation and everything belongs to him.

Stewards of Our Time:

One thing we all have in common is the same amount of time each day. Very often, we use expressions like "I don't have enough time" or "I just don't know where the time goes." In our day, most people feel pushed for time. Time cannot be accumulated like money. We are

forced to spend it, whether we choose to or not, and at a fixed rate of 60 seconds every minute. Time cannot be turned on and off like a machine. In today's world, we have fax, email, telephone, priority mail, and even next day delivery to communicate important information the very next day thousands of miles away. With all these technological advances, we should have more leisure time today than at any other period in history, but the opposite is really the case. How ironic. In Ecclesiastes 3, the Bible says *there is a time for everything*. The problem we each face in our society today is our view of time and life itself and how we use the time we have. We forget life is short and we will not be here forever. God wants us to be good stewards of our time.

Stewards of Our Talents:

God has created us with lots of different talents that need to be used for His kingdom. I really like how the Bible in Romans 12:6 is very direct on how to use these gifts with others and *for* others. Christ taught us to be humble and to serve and share our talents. We also have to learn how to use these talents. We go to school and prepare ourselves to put into practice the knowledge we learned through our gifts. I once heard somebody say that people only use 15% of their gifts and the other 85% is wasted. Being a good steward is also managing your gift and talents.

A "stewardship way of life" invites and challenges us to make specific commitments in each of these areas on a regular basis. How well we are doing can give us a measuring stick to see if we are growing closer to God.

THINGS GET BETTER WITH AGE

I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night." (Age 5)

I've learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either. (Age 7)

I've learned that when I wave to people out in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back. (Age 9)

I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again. (Age 12)

I've learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice. (Age 24)

I've learned that brushing my child's hair is one of life's great pleasures. (Age 26)

I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there. (Age 29)

I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. (Age 30)

I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it. (Age 42)

I've learned that you can make someone's day by simply sending them a little note. (Age 44)

I've learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his or her need to cast blame on others. (Age 46)

I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies. (Age 47)

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on and it will be better tomorrow. (Age 48)

I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours. (Age 49)

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. (Age 51)

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World Communion Sunday (cont'd.)

In connection with the celebration of World-Wide Communion Sunday, the Methodist Church collected a special offering for the Fellowship of Suffering and Service. The Methodist Commission on Overseas Relief, the forerunner of today's [United Methodist Committee on Relief](#) received half of the offering. The other half was divided between two agencies that ministered to military members: the Methodist Commission on Chaplains and the Methodist Commission on Camp Activity.

"Servers often have tears in their eyes...to see the breadth of diversity within God's kingdom."
United Methodist pastor the Rev. Stephen Bauman explains what World Communion Day means to his congregation. ([Video link](#))

differences in our denominations and traditions, we celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

In The United Methodist Church, World Communion Sunday continues to be a special giving Sunday. The monies raised today help provide scholarships for racial and ethnic minority students in the US, and students worldwide.

World Communion Sunday Today

Today, The United Methodist Church celebrates World Communion Sunday with congregations all over the globe. Followers of Jesus Christ in large churches and small, on farms and in cities, in ornate buildings and under tents, gather to receive the bread and cup of Holy Communion. Some will receive cubes of bread. Some will tear from a common loaf. Some will receive a wafer. Some will drink from a common chalice. Some will dip a piece of bread into the cup. Some will have individual glasses. Some will use wine; some juice. Some will offer both. Pastors will lead a variety of liturgies, in many languages. Clergy will dress traditionally, formally, and casually. Despite the

This Sunday

Come to church this World Communion Sunday prepared to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. As you receive the bread and cup, remember that you are part of the Church Universal, united in Christ across time and space. Come also prepared to give generously to The United Methodist Church's World Communion offering. Your gifts will assist those whom God has gifted to learn and to serve in the name of Jesus Christ. Learn much more about the World Communion Sunday offering, and our other special giving Sundays at UMCGiving.org.

Better With Age (cont'd.)

I've learned that keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills. ([Age 52](#))

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. ([Age 53](#))

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. ([Age 58](#))

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. ([Age 62](#))

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. ([Age 64](#))

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the

needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. ([Age 65](#))

I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision. ([Age 66](#))

I've learned that everyone can use a prayer. ([Age 72](#))

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. ([Age 74](#))

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch—holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. ([Age 76](#))

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. ([Age 78](#))

Source: mikeysFunnies.com

