

MEADOWVIEW MESSENGER

Meadowview United Methodist Church

Where Christian Caring Comes to Life

29043 Walker Lane, (PO Box 255), Meadowview, VA 24361
meadowviewumc@comcast.net

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The Pastor's Pondering:

What IF?

What if we rethink Church? Not in terms of what it *is*, but what it *could be*. What would it look like? Would it look like you or me? Or would it look like you *and* me? Would it be traditional with hymns or contemporary? Would more people come if we mixed things up a bit? Do we care if more people come?

What if all of our churches were vibrant, active places where people wanted to be, not just on Sunday but all week long? What if church was not just a place to go, but something we do? What would it look like if we actually start *doing* church instead of just coming to the building? What if we *became* church instead of just calling the building "church?"

What if we were to go beyond the doors of the church to serve those in the world who are in need? What if by faith we were able to engage the world to come to Christ? What if we offered the world a new version of us and the church? A version where we actually do what we preach about. A new version of ourselves! A version that does not include us trying to present us as the one to who people should turn; rather present the world with a version of the church that inspires hope, faith, and action. In this version, the vision would be genuine and direct when we say "OPEN HEARTS", "OPEN MINDS", "OPEN DOORS", so that together we, the church, actually do portray these benchmarks of a loving and living Christ. WHAT IF??

So let us "rethink church". Rethinking church means taking actions to become a more inclusive church by inviting the "others" to worship with us. When we rethink church we are reminded of the many needs of human beings, both in our backyard and around the world. It is a call to action for us to become more involved together in a world that is not just our little corner of that world.

In the First Century, Jesus' ministry made his world rethink faith beyond the walls and doors of the Temple and synagogues. In the 18th century, John Wesley called people to rethink church and make the whole world our parish. Today, we are challenging our congregations to do the same, to rethink the way our church makes contact with the world.

In order for us to become a "welcoming" church, we have to be "about our father's business." It's not about what is going on at our church, it's about understanding that opening our doors means we are letting people *in* and we are going *out* and making potential connections in the world and community around us. It's about "connecting" with the community, seekers who might prefer the outside rather than inside the four walls. It's about connecting with other churches, connecting with Jesus Christ, and transitioning from *talking* about church to *being* the church; and "making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

So when we rethink church, what will our church look like? What is our church known for? Who are we and how do we want to reach the lost in our community? What are our strengths? Go to the people instead of waiting for them to come to us!

Do we really want to grow our church? Or are we satisfied with what we have? Do we really want to invite our community to church? Are we really willing to work to create an atmosphere of welcoming, inviting, discipling and transitioning or are we waiting for someone else to do it?

ARE WE READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD>>> STARTING WITH OUR CHURCH??

(Excerpts from United Methodist Handouts: What If?)

Calendar for November 2019:

03 5:30 p.m. Charge Conference @ Carvosso UMC
12 9:30 a.m. Clergy meeting @ MV
26 Older Adult outing to Holston Home (Greenville, TN)

Normal (repeating) schedule:

Sunday: Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School @ 10:45 a.m.
Sunday: Choir practice @ 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday: Cantata Choir practice @ 6:00 p.m. @ SG

Conference Date:

11/03 @ 5:30 p.m.: Charge Conf. @ Carvosso UMC

Choir practice for Joint Christmas Cantata:

MV & SG Christmas Cantata choir practice will be on Wednesdays 6:00 to 7:00 pm at SG's Sanctuary. This is an "all singers program" for both churches' joint Christmas Cantata on 12/15. Please join us; your goodwill, God's given talent, and stewardship are required for God's worship and praise!

Scripture Readers for November:

11/03: Beverly Sheddian; Ephesians 1:11-23
11/10: David St. Clair; Matthew 25: 14-23
11/17: Tom Taylor; (*no info as yet*)
11/24: Mark McKinney; Luke 23: 33-43; Colossians 1:11-20

Volunteers needed:

Volunteers are needed to teach the children's sermon.

Clergy meeting – Nov. 12, 2019

On November 12, 2019, a clergy meeting will be held at Meadowview UMC from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.. Pastor Barbara is asking that MV prepare food for breakfast.

Prayer Concerns for Our Church Family

Anita Coulthard	Joanna Dennstaedt
B Neese	Skeeter Yeatts
Peggy Bolling	Doris Quintana
Wade Blevins	Judy Briscoe
Lily Mehl	Georgia Moore
Wanda Kealey	Malcolm Nutter
Susan Rasnick	Tony Smith
Mack Boyd	Christine Puttock
Jeremy Weaver	Beulah Stringer
Haley Charlton	Lynn Baggett
Adeline Littleton	Diane Mash Jones
Christina Reynolds	Nairn Family

*If you need to add someone to the prayer list or are ready to have someone taken off, please contact Annette Sumrell at shadygrove_umc@yahoo.com or 276-206-3243 (call or text).

Bible Study – 2 choices

Pastor Barbara is leading a Bible study on Wednesdays from 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. and on Sundays from 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.. Both are being held at Shady Grove. (There will NOT be Bible study on Sunday, 11/17 and Wednesday, 11/20.)

NOTE:

Pastor Barbara will be at a conference from Nov. 17-22. She is also on call for Federal jury duty through Dec. 6.

Contact info for Pastor Barbara:

Email: pastordoyle1209@gmail.com
Phone: 276-525-1637 (home); 423-341-2198 (cell)

NOTE: When referencing the pastor, please use "Pastor Barbara" or "Pastor" or "Pastor Barb."