Newsletter 05.28.26

Even after eight years of marriage, Rita is still shocked at how I can find myself in rather absurd situations. Really, at this point I do not know why she is always so surprised to find out that I have done something weird or silly. You would think she would be used to it by now. This past Sunday, however, I still managed to surprise her. We were on vacation in London and I found a local Methodist church to worship at. By the way, the people at Hinde Street Methodist Church send their regards and prayers. It was a lovely worship service, and afterwards I found myself talking with the pastor.

We mainly just talked shop. You know, discussing the reports we had to complete and the meetings we needed to attend. We gossiped a little bit and drank tea together. He told me that since it was Aldersgate Day, the day John Wesley's heart was "strangely warmed" by the Spirit, there was going to be a special joint prayer service with the Church of England. It was to be held at the gravesite of Charles Wesley, John's brother and the famous hymn writer.

The English pastor bemoaned the fact that he would most likely be the only Methodist there. There were no other Methodist churches nearby, and since it was a holiday weekend, most of his congregation was away. Then he handed me a stack of papers.

"Thankfully," he said, "there is no such thing as a free lunch, so you will be there to help." Which is how I found myself standing next to Charles Wesley's grave reading from Romans. The random American United Methodist among a gathering of Anglicans celebrating one of the most important days in British Methodism. Rita was thoroughly amused that I had somehow gotten myself into this situation.

While I was reading, I found myself struck by how amazing the moment truly was. Here I was, a stranger being welcomed and invited in. I was not merely a passive observer, but an active participant. An ocean separated our homes and churches, yet we were still able to stand together as one body in Christ. All the things that could have divided us simply did not matter in that moment.

This is the power of the Holy Spirit in action. The Spirit binds together all who believe. Oceans, borders, traditions, accents, and even denominations are no match for the work of God. The same Spirit that stirred John Wesley's heart centuries ago is still moving among us today, drawing people together into something greater than themselves.

In a world that seems determined to divide people into smaller and smaller groups, Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit is always working in the opposite direction. The Spirit gathers. The Spirit unites. The Spirit reminds us that before we are anything else, we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Standing there in London, surrounded by people I had never met before, I was reminded that the Church is so much bigger than any one congregation, country, or tradition. We belong to one another because we belong to Christ. Thanks be to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit that continues to make us one. God Bless, Pastor Ed

Disciples and Dragons Youth Group Is meeting every Sunday
in June and July at 6 PM

Graduation Open House~Join us to celebrate the graduation of ***Sydney Horner***
Saturday, June 6th from 11am-2pm
at Lakeville United Methodist Church 610 N. Michigan Street Lakeville, IN 46536

TOPS Club meets at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206, use north east door.

VBS – Snowball Mountain Challenge – Tuesday, July 21 – Friday, July 24

Online giving is available for your convenience
Scan the QR code for the direct link. Also, at lakevilleumc.org

Updated Food Pantry Needs: egg noodles, salt, toilet paper, pasta or spaghetti, jelly, any kind of soup, mayonnaise, cake mix, frosting, dishwashing liquid, soup with meat, saltine crackers.
The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule
May 31 Potluck Lunch **June 7** Charlotte
June 14 Dixie
Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.

Sunday Kids Church Schedule
May 31 Hope **June 7** Communion
June 14 Hope
Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.

Looking Ahead

Disciples & Dragons Youth Group will meet every

Sunday in June and July 6-8 PM

Fifth Sunday – May 31 Bring a dish to share

Annual Conference – June 3 – 6 St. Luke's UMC, Indianapolis
Missions/Evangelism Meeting – Thursday, June 4, 6:30 PM
Food Pantry – Tuesday, June 9, 3-6 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, June 23, 3-6 PM

Sydney Horner's Graduation Party – 11 AM – 2 PM
Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, June 24, 10 AM
Turkey and Gravy Biscuit Brunch

Saturday, June 27, 11 AM -1 PM

Euchre/Game Night - Saturday, June 27, 6-8 PM