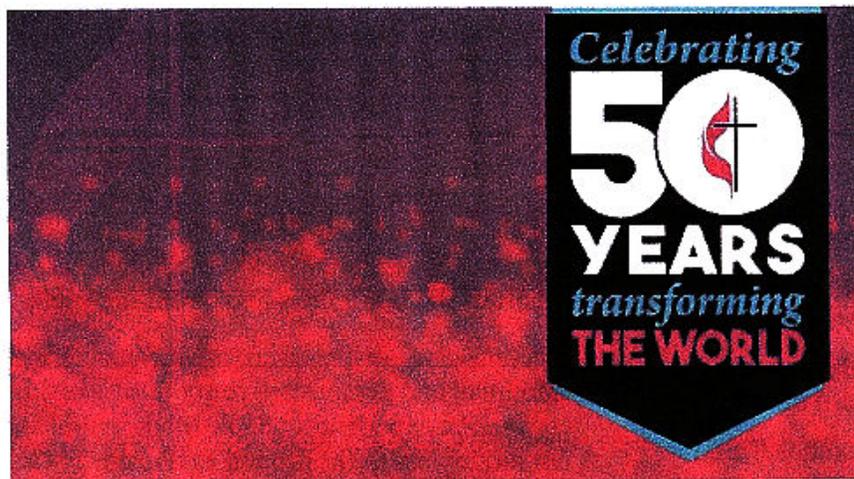


Grace United Methodist Church
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The **Methodist** revival began with a group of men, including John Wesley (1703–1791) and his younger brother Charles (1707–1788), as a movement within the Church of England in the 18th century.

Continued on page 2

In this Issue

1. Cover
2. Sunday School, Small Groups, Methodist History
3. Pastor's Page: "It's Not Over Yet"
4. Continued
5. Thanks to the April Worship Team, Thanks to... Congrats!, Thanks Mom, Pentecost Petals, From the Library, A BIG thank you
6. Gift to Wiley College, Special Dates, Power of Pentecost, A Great Community, Birthdays & Anniversaries, Restart Your Heart, 'Toon
7. Kids' Korner
8. Puzzle
9. Calendar
10. Cover

Happenings in May



May 13
and



May 20, Pentecost

May 28

Memorial Day



Experiencing, Embracing and Extending God's Grace



Youth in Sunday School

Sunday School is small in number but mighty in love and fun! We've been learning about giving our talents to God, our time to God and last week our treasure! Music, videos, crafts, games, laughter and love are the marks of our time together every week. Thanks be to God for faithful parents, faithful helpers and all of you who pray for our kids. We trust God's plans for Grace as we remain steadfast and serve in His name! --Miss Laurie

Small groups at Grace

Tuesday

3rd Tues at 11:45-A Few Good Men at Wright's

Wednesday

Noon - BYOBB meets at Robinson's

Thursday

7AM Prayer & Share at Bedard's

2nd Thurs of the month is Care for Caregivers at Robinson's.

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Methodist History

Early Methodists were drawn from the ranks of slaves, poor whites, and "middling people"—artisans, shopkeepers, petty merchants and small planters. These social classes were attracted to Methodism's condemnation of the worldliness of the gentry. Slaves and free blacks were especially attracted to the Methodist Episcopal Church's condemnation of slavery. Prominent Methodists such as Coke, Asbury, and Freeborn Garrettson preached an antislavery message, and the Christmas Conference mandated that all Methodist laity and preachers emancipate their slaves. While African Americans were not yet ordained and classes were segregated by race, important African American leaders did emerge, such as Harry Hosier who was an associate of Asbury and Coke.



Because of Methodism's conscious repudiation of upper class values and lifestyles, elite women who converted took on a revolutionary character. While women were not granted formal leadership roles (though some were class leaders occasionally), they played important roles

Methodist History Continued

in evangelization through class relations, family networks, correspondence, and in the home. It was common for both women and slaves to publicly deliver exhortations—testimonials and personal conversion narratives distinguishable from sermons because exhorters did not "take a text" from the Bible.

Meetings and services were often characterized by extremely emotional and demonstrative styles of worship. As part of the conversion experience, people often trembled, groaned, screamed, or fell motionless to the ground as if dead. These bodily experiences as well as Methodist ascetic practices and claims of receiving direct communication from the Holy Spirit inspired its opponents to accuse Methodism of being a form of religious enthusiasm that caused insanity. Because of its Arminian doctrines, the evangelistic work of the Methodist Episcopal Church was often opposed by Calvinists.

The first **Conference** called the Christmas Conference was held in 1784 in Baltimore. It gave itself legislative power over the church, determined to meet every four years, and decided membership for general and annual conferences would include all elders, deacons, and traveling preachers. Local preachers and other lay members were denied voting rights. Francis Asbury was made bishop and was in charge of clergy and circuit riders.

We are celebrating 50 years of UNITED Methodism because: "The United Methodist Church was officially formed on April 23, 1968, with the unification of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical Brethren Church, along with the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction, a segregated group of African-American congregations." The Conference was held in Dallas Texas. At that time there were 11 million members in the US.

In 2014 the UMC was the largest mainline Protestant denomination and the largest protestant Christian church in the US, after the Southern Baptist Convention. It was 80 million worldwide. While worldwide membership in The United Methodist Church has grown since 1968, membership in Europe and the United States has declined, offset by significant growth in Africa and Asia. In Africa, The United Methodist Church has expanded episcopal areas to include East Africa, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, East Congo, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa.

--from United Methodist Communications, April 27, 2018



the PASTOR'S CORNER

may 2018

It's Not Over, Yet...

Before I disappeared over the horizon in a blaze of glory (sic), I thought it might be instructive to take one last advantage of the fact that this month United Methodist Churches will observe **Heritage Sunday on May 24th**. I will be preaching in West Burke for the last time on that Sunday, so this is my chance to reflect in a pastoral way with you about our identity.

We all know our church's name -- *Grace United Methodist Church*. "Grace" means that we take seriously God's forgiving mercy, and the truth that *all of us* need that grace from God, and from one another. "United Methodist" means we are part of the second largest mainline Protestant denomination in the US, with a significant world-wide presence. Like other mainline Protestant churches, United Methodist congregations have been shrinking for thirty-five years. Our fighting and bickering as a denomination over social issues has hurt the way we are perceived by others.

Despite those troubles, there is a lot of history of which we Methodists can be justifiably proud. (Kay has provided some summary material elsewhere in this newsletter.) What follows is something like a Methodism 101 FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) Forum. Here are just a few possible entries:

1) What are the core parts of UMC theology?
Methodist Christians affirm the most common declarations of traditional Christian belief -- that God is our Creator; that Jesus Christ is God's Son

who was crucified on a Roman cross, died, and rose to life in a victorious resurrection that nullifies the ultimate power of death and sin to control our lives; and that the Holy Spirit has been present ever since to the whole community of Christians to instruct, guide and inspire believers through prayer and devotion.

Methodism has been from the beginning an intentionally welcoming body, so that we choose to recognize that all human knowledge is imperfect, leading to various human perspectives on *how* God accomplishes God's purposes in the world -- we worry *less* about questions like how many angels fit on the head of a pin? and *more* about how can we live our lives in a way more pleasing to God and more beneficial to our neighbors?



What makes the United Methodist Church different from other churches?

The most distinctive emphases in Methodism are the significant role we think that God's mercy and grace play, believing that God's capacity for forgiveness and salvation for us is greater than any sin - - said another way, we are never beyond God's reach for salvation! Second, we can do a lot to show God we understand and want to respond to the magnitude of God's mercy by living lives which we hope will be *holy*, not because we somehow *earn* our salvation that way, but because in response to God's love,

(continued next page)

It's Not Over, Yet... (continued)

(continued from previous page)

we want to demonstrate our awareness of his great sacrifice and mercy.

Where did the Methodist Movement Start?

Methodism started in England in the 1730's, as a movement among clergy and lay people in the Church of England to revitalize it through greater openness to the Holy Spirit. It was one of many such movements occurring in that time, and other branches of the "holiness" movement (Nazarenes, Pentecostals) are our historical spiritual cousins, though each has developed its own unique expression over the past 130 years or so. Methodism has become closer to the mainstream established churches. Hence our inclusion in "mainline" Protestantism.

Why does our denomination have bishops?

Is there a Methodist pope?

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Movement, often felt side-lined by the Anglican Church. But he never formally repudiated it, his ordination by the Church of England was never rescinded. He considered himself a Christian first, an ordained leader in the Church of England second, who applied a methodical discipline to his attempts to live faithfully.

Our church structure resembles that of the Anglican and Episcopal Churches from which we descended. So we do have bishops. But no pope. Instead, we have a Council of Bishops who give executive oversight to a legislative body which guides and defines the UMC. This General Conference meets every four years.

Did You Know... that several organizations and events familiar for over a century have their origins in the Methodist Movement?

Mother's Day in the United States has its first official observance in 1908 in a West Virginia Methodist church, championed by the enthusiasm of a laywoman, Anna Jarvis, who later regretted the commercialization of Mother's Day by the emerging greeting card industry of the early 20th century.

The Salvation Army was founded in 1865 in London by a Methodist preacher and his wife who gave up a parish ministry to devote themselves to an evangelical sharing of the gospel by helping people through education, job training, advocacy, and poverty relief.

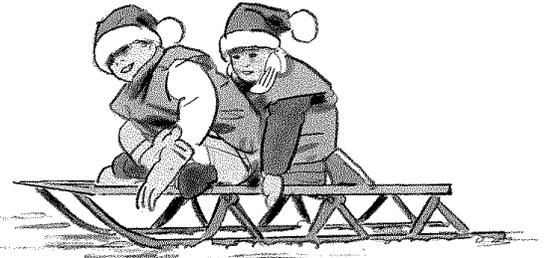
Goodwill Industries International (What we have known as "Goodwill") was founded in 1902 as a ministry of the Morgan Methodist Chapel in Boston. It is independent and vastly expanded, now, and its focus is now more on helping the people it serves in concrete ways rather than proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus. But it was "inspired" as the work of a local Methodist congregation.

Times have certainly shifted for the Methodist Church since its early decades. Neither our denomination, nor our beloved Grace UMC looks like the powerhouse it once was. But I submit to you that the Biblical Story of God's People is full of moments when prospects were grim for God's People. Yet faith, trust in God's faithfulness and favor, and dedication by the Children of God bore fruit for the Kingdom of our Master Jesus Christ. This is a time like that! So hold on! Have faith! Always seek God's plan for your Life and your Church. It is not over, yet! And God is with us through and beyond these years of transformation!

Praying for your family and for mine... Kirk



The Kid's Korner



May 2018

The Newsletter Just for Kids!

The Merry Month of May!

May is wonderful, isn't it?!? I'll bet you are happy to enjoy some sunny weather, and an occasional glimpse of blue sky amid all the rain we've been having. Spring officially began on March 21st, so we are now well into the season, though it has certainly been bashful about appearing! What comes to mind when you think of spring? Is it the sound of birds chirping as they awake early in the morning? Or is it the sound of peepers yodeling in the evening? Is it the first daffodils and crocuses breaking through the soil to find the sunlight?

Many people do find that it is the flowers of spring that tickle their souls the most. In just a few days, it seems, all the bright reds, yellows, purples and pinks - and don't forget the many beautiful shades green?!



Perhaps you have planted seeds in a paper cup to watch how they grow. You need to give it some nice rich soil, a little bit of water to keep it moist, and some warm sunlight. These are necessary so that the plant grows deep roots. When any of these are missing, the plant can have a tough time growing as it should.

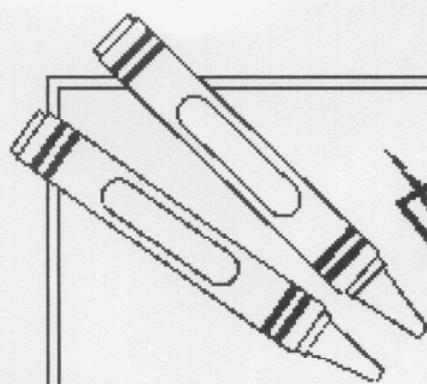
Jesus told a story about a man who planted seeds (Matthew 123:1-9 and Luke 8:4-8). Depending on where the seeds fell, they grew into sturdy, healthy plants, or became sick, or were eaten, or suffered from some other fate. Jesus told the story to remind us to take very good care of each other, and to nourish each other as we grow in faith. Here in the Church, we are like God's garden, where we help each other grow into faithful disciples for Jesus.

In May, we celebrate a holiday every year to remind us of the women who nurture and teach us how to love one another - our mothers. As you can see from the picture below, there are many ways to show Mom's how much we appreciate them. A flower is always appreciated. Or a card that says, "I love you!" is always nice, especially if you made it yourself. Or doing something nice to help out!



Mother's Day

Something on this page REALLY doesn't belong here, anymore! Can you find it???



PUZZLE

WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M ^x	N ^x	O ^z
E	F	G	P ^x	R ^x	S ^x
H	I	L	T ^z	U ^x	Y ^z

" _____ your _____

and your

the

your

has

_____ "

5:16, NIV

Experiencing, Embracing & Extending God's Grace

Thanks to the April Worship Team

Communion Stewards: Mary Ann and Jim Allen,
Charlotte Hutchins & Carolyn Wright

Fellowship Hosts: Sara Gingue, Beulah McGinnis
Laurie Bedard & Maddie Easter, Cheryl Kerr, Charlotte
Hutchins & Carolyn Wright, Suzanne Timson

Greeters & Ushers: Peter Bedard, Bob Carpenter,
Curt Geiger, Cheryl Kerr, Beulah McGinnis,
Ray Richer, Bernie Timson, Lisa Wood

Scripture: Cindy Hardy, Pam Smith, Laura Webster

Community Lunch: Peter & Laurie Bedard, Aime
LaBounty, Beulah McGinnis, Julie Nadeau, Donna Reed,
Ray & Evelyn Richer, Pastor Kirk, Lisa Wood,

Altar Environment: Laurie Bedard, Pastor Kirk

Projection Team: Jeana Desilets, Bart Selle, Kathy
Thompson, Nicquelle Timson

Thanks to...

- Flames of Grace musicians.
- Everyone who gave memorials and gifts at Easter to beautify the altar and enrich our mission giving.
- Pastor Kirk who preaches, leads, plays piano and sings and encourages us all in our walk with God, among a whole lot of other things!
- Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee for their work securing our new pastor, planning details with Danville and preparing for the move at the end of June.
- Nicquelle and Bernie for all the new energy-saving light bulbs in the chapel, parlor and choir loft. They also put screening in the windows of the belfry to keep out birds and bats!

Another big thank you is in order for wonderfully willing hands at Grace dusting, polishing, vacuuming, repairing, sprucing up, you name it their hands were working! Servant hearts! Laurie Bedard, Bob Carpenter, Ray Richer, Jill Geiger, Pamela Franchek, Jean Maleski, Durward & Kay Ellis, thank you all so much for stepping up to help.

Congratulations to Bob Carpenter, our new sexton. If you don't know Bob, he is also the drummer, singer and a leader of Flames of Grace!

Thanks, Mom

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting" he said.

Pentecost Petals

The Pantheon, dedicated in 126 A.D. as the home of ancient Roman gods, is now a Catholic basilica. In a tradition dating back to the seventh century, on Pentecost Sunday thousands of rose petals are dropped through the roof's opening onto worshipers below. The red petals symbolize the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus' disciples, as well as the blood Jesus shed on the cross.

To accomplish this "rose rain" five firefighters climb to the roof after mass. While the choir sings the ancient hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* ("Come Creator Spirit") firefighters empty seven bags of petals through the building's 27-foot-wide oculus, or eye in the sky.

Only a fortunate few can witness this spectacular event in person each year, but videos are available online.

From the Library



Have you read anything by Anthony Campolo or heard his *It's Friday But Sunday's Coming?* You're in for a treat!

The cover says "We have met the enemy, and they are **PARTLY RIGHT.**" Campolo explores the background and claims of major critics of bourgeois Christianity. He shows both pros and cons.

An "oldie but goodie" is *A Man Called Peter* by Catherine Marshall. It's a classic about Dr. Peter Marshall, the Scottish pastor who was elected Chaplain of the U. S. Senate, written by his wife. It includes many of his sermons and prayers exactly as he wrote them.

For Youth & Children: *All is Well* by Frank Peretti is a wonderful, heartwarming classic for children of all ages. It reminds us of God's boundless love and His eagerness to take care of his children. Illustrated by Gary Glover.

A BIG THANK YOU TO
JIM ALLEN
for his service as

Sexton
Trustee

Trustee Chair

Food Gatherer

Repair Man

Recycle-er

Friend

Fellowship Provider

Communion Steward

With our best wishes & prayers.



Experiencing, Embracing and Extending God's Grace

Denzel Washington Renews Gift to Wiley College

MARSHALL, Texas —Two-time Academy Award winner Denzel Washington pledged to renew a \$1 million gift to the debate program at United Methodist-related Wiley College, one of the denomination's historically black colleges. Washington starred in & directed the 2007 film, "The Great Debaters," about Wiley's debate team. He re-established its debate program, which had been inactive since the early 1900s, when it was led by English professor and poet, Melvin B. Tolson. Officially known as the Melvin B. Tolson/Denzel Washington Forensics Society, the team has earned more than 3,000 awards and has twice won the Overall Sweepstakes Championship and the Individual Events Sweepstakes Championship of the Pi Kappa Delta National Comprehensive Tournament, a prestigious debate competition that Tolson's teams were not allowed to take part in.

Special Dates

- May 3 National Day of Prayer
- May 10 Ascension Day
- May 13, Mother's Day
- May 19, Armed Forces Day
- May 20 Pentecost
- May 27 Trinity Sunday
- May 28 Memorial Day

The Power of Pentecost

"Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things."
--A.J. Gordon

What Makes a Community Great

In Acts 4:32-35, Luke describes the first Christians (not even yet called that) as having "everything in common," with no "needy person among them."

Theologian Fred Craddock says the early church embodied both the Old Testament ideal and the Greek ideal, "which held that 'for friends all things are common.'"

Clearly, Luke is presenting the early church as the embodiment of both the Jewish and Greek ideal community in which unity and charity thrive."



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Chuck Perkins | 22 Casey Stellplue |
| 2 Carolyn Wright | 25 Azariah (Shyfeek) Goff |
| 5 Mary Anne Allen | 28 Andrew Franchek |
| 5 Hannah Silver | 29 Jean Maleski |
| 8 Julia Robillard | 29 Daniel Rapoza |
| 12 Adrianna Perkins | 30 Perley Wright |
| 17 Mary Coathup | |

May 2 Tim & Amy Bedor

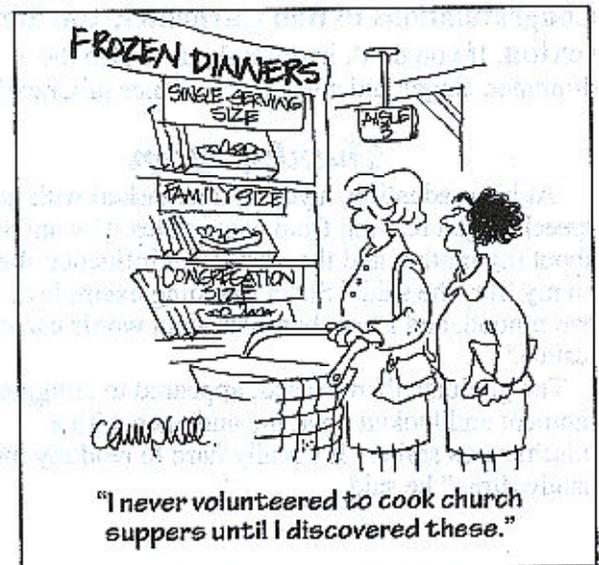


Restart Your Heart

Pain and loss are inescapable on this earth; fortunately, the Great Physician specializes in fixing hearts. Our participation is vital to recovery, though, as Danny Gokey sings in "Tell Your Heart to Beat Again."

The song was inspired by a pastor asking to watch a cardiac surgeon – one of his congregants – in action. When the doctor attempted to restart the patient's heart after repairing it, the organ wouldn't cooperate. The surgeon knelt to speak with his patient: "We have fixed your heart. We have repaired it. There is nothing wrong with your heart. If you can hear me, I need you to tell your heart to beat again." And it did—because she did.

"You can get back up again," says Gokey, who faced loss when his first wife died. "You can move forward with your life, and you don't have to walk with a limp." God has fixed our hearts, Gokey says, but we need to recognize that—and begin to hope again.



May 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>On May 13</p>		<p>1 11 am Woman's Club</p>	<p>2 12 BYOBB at Carol's</p>	<p>3 7am Prayer & Share at Bedard's</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Circo De Mayo</p>
<p>6 9 am Flames of Grace 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Fellowship</p>	<p>7 11 am Luncheon</p>	<p>8 5:30 Bells of Grace 7pm Flames of Grace</p>	<p>9 12 BYOBB at Carol's</p>	<p>10 7am Prayer & Share at Bedard's 9:30 am Caregiver's at Robinson's</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Mother's Day 9 am Flames of Grace 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Fellowship</p>	<p>14 11 am Luncheon</p>	<p>15 11:30 A Few Good Men At Wright's</p>	<p>16 12 BYOBB at Carol's 1 pm TBI</p>	<p>17 7am Prayer & Share at Bedard's</p>	<p>18 U M W Assembly in Columbus Ohio</p>	<p>19 Armed Forces Day Pre-Cont. Mtg. In Williston 1-4pm Transition Wkshop in Williston</p>
<p>20 Pentecost Sunday 9 am Flames of Grace 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Fellowship</p>	<p>21 11 am Luncheon</p>	<p>22 7 pm Flames of Grace</p>	<p>23 12 BYOBB at Carol's</p>	<p>24 7am Prayer & Share at Bedard's</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9 am Flames of Grace 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Fellowship</p>	<p>28 Memorial Day </p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 12 BYOBB at Carol's</p>	<p>31 7am Prayer & Share at Bedard's</p>	<p>PENTECOST SUNDAY Is May 20 Courtesy of WinCalendar.com</p>	