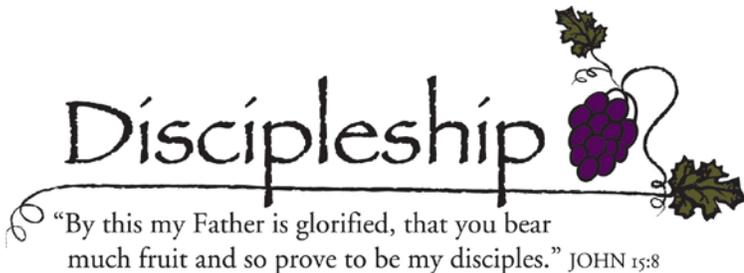


Valley Voice

*Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World
Pastor Calvin Miller Office Phone: 814-355-2208
June/July 2018*



Greater Buffalo Run Valley UMC and in our Community.

Beginning with Sunday, May 27th, I will be preaching a series on Discipleship. Discipleship is "...teaching biblical precepts while modeling and guiding others toward living righteously as followers of Jesus Christ" (allaboutfollowingjesus.org). Through the Lord's Prayer, God will show us how to recognize Him, live in Him, and share Him with others now and into our future mission and ministry.

We are united by common needs- water, sustenance, shelter, love, forgiveness. Each of us is simultaneously a unique child of God and a member of the Body of Christ. As members of this Body, our responsibility is to grow the Kingdom through Discipleship. Focusing on two things: (1) understanding our own role as Disciples- followers of Christ, and (2), leading others to Christ by being followers that best exemplify Discipleship, our individual and corporate Spirituality will grow because Christ will be reflected both inward and outward in our lives and in our Church.

I encourage you to contemplate, study, pray, and question- who you are, and who God is. God is great- let's learn even more so how to share God's greatness with others ... together.

Blessings & Wholeness,

Pastor Calvin

The United Methodist Church stands at a crossroads. The Commission on the Way Forward, proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved at the 2016 General Conference, consisted of 32 people from around the globe. Their task was "to lead the church forward amid the present impasse related to LGBTQ inclusion and resulting questions about the unity of the church" (umc.org). They have been meeting since January 2017 and recently gave their recommendation of the "One Church Plan" to the Council of Bishops as the best way to move forward. As I lift this up in my prayer life, the one thing God regularly reveals to me is that, no matter where we are on this personally, we all still need God and we all still need to share God.

As United Methodists, regardless of our differences of opinion, we believe in and Worship, the same God ... the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ... the God of Grace ... the God of forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In order for us to move ahead, we must lessen our focus on what divides us and concentrate on what unites us. To that end, God has given us a Vision of increased Discipleship in the



**Greater Buffalo Run Valley
United Methodist Church**

***MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR
THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD***

**Sunday Worship Schedule:
9 a.m.**

**Buffalo Run UMC Location
10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School
Buffalo Run UMC Location**

**If you are in need of prayer or would like to
have a pastoral visit, please contact
Pastor Calvin Miller
Office Phone: 355-2208
Home Phone: 814-810-2106
Email: cmiller@susumc.org**

Beginning Today

"Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend to them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster, and do with no thought of any reward. Your life will never be the same again."

---From Appleseeds

Story of the Apple Tree

A nobleman was riding his horse along a road and saw an old man digging in his garden. Beside the man lay a sapling ready for to be planted. The nobleman called out, "What kind of tree are you planting?"

"An apple tree," replied the old man.

"An apple tree! How old are you?" exclaimed the nobleman.

"I'm 90," came the answer.

"You are 90 years old and planting a tree which will take years and years to bear fruit?"

"Tell me," said the old man, "did you ever eat an apple when you were young?"

"Certainly, why do you ask?"

"Well," said the old man, "who do you think planted the tree from which those gifts were obtained?"

The nobleman hesitated, "I have no idea."

"You see, sir, our forefathers planted trees for us to enjoy, and I am doing the same for those who will come along after me. How else can I repay my debt to those who lived before me?"

---Anonymous

"To be a companion of Jesus requires that we listen to and live his basic teachings: to be compassionate, to reach out to the impoverished and the helpless, to not judge others harshly, to forgive our enemies, to live with honesty and integrity, to not take revenge, to love unconditionally. It is by these marks that others will recognize us as a companion of Jesus."

---LIVING FAITH

"God isn't going to ask you how he created the earth. He already knows. He's going to ask, 'What did you do with what I created?' If we're leaving a footprint that destroys the earth, we've failed to be good stewards."

---Rich Cizik, Nat'l Assoc. for Evangelicals

When the Person Is Right

One rainy Sunday afternoon, a little boy was bored and his father was sleepy. The father decided to create an activity to keep the kid busy. So, he found in the morning newspaper a large map of the world.

He took scissors and cut it into a good many irregular shapes like a jigsaw puzzle. Then he said to his son, "See if you can put this puzzle together. And don't disturb me until you're finished." He turned over on the couch, thinking this would occupy the boy for at least an hour. To his amazement, the boy was tapping his shoulder ten minutes later telling him that the job was done.

The father saw that every piece of the map had been fitted together perfectly. "How did you do that?" he asked. "It was easy, Dad. There was a picture of a man on the other side. When I got him together right, the world was right."

A person's world can never be right until the person is right, and that requires the miracle of new birth. Don't you dare stop asking God for the experience of new birth until you can shout from the housetops, "Through Jesus Christ, God has fundamentally changed my life!"

Bill Bouknight, Collected Sermons, www.Sermons.com

Violence or Peace

"The Christian message of peace is this: if God so loved us that he sent his Son to be one of us, then we do have a great value in his eyes. We, too, then, must value others in the same way. Secondly, we must learn how to love in the same way, caring not for the self, but for the other.

Thus, the Christian message is one of hope against all odds. It is easy to speak of hope when all goes well; but Christian hope is based on the belief that God cares even when all seems lost and every human force seems inadequate.

We can give others glimpses of such hope by our own example of loving service. Each time we imitate Jesus by a disinterested, loving care for others, we help them overcome violence within them."

---Archbishop Rembert Weakland, OSB, *Walking on the Wings of the Wind*



God is all knowing ... sort of like your mom.

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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"There is something magical that happens to the human spirit, a sense of calm that comes over you, when you cease needing all the attention directed toward yourself and instead allow others to have the glory."

---Richard Carlson, *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff*

*Laughter is a melody,
A concert from the heart,
A tickling by the angels,
Creative living art.
Laughter heals and comforts,
It's sometimes gentle –
sometimes bold
Laughter is a freeing dance,
Performed within the soul.*

—Joyful Noiseletter via Rev. Bill Park
Bethany, OK
from his book *Go Ahead and Laugh!*

We Are the Beloved

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane

"When God gets our attention and we accept His grace and forgiveness, our feet are set on a new path. My brief prayer inviting God to enter my life was really only the beginning of my journey. It gave me new priorities and a new way of looking at myself. Although I'm still the same person with the same talents He gave me, I now see that I can use those talents to bring glory to His name. And in the process, I am able to become the best person I can be.

"Your new destination, then, is really a new purpose in life. By purpose, I mean your reason for being – something toward which you are always striving. A purpose is different than a goal in that it does not have a beginning or an end – it is ongoing. It gives meaning and definition to our lives."

---Ken Blanchard



Keep Moving

A college class was graduating on a hot and humid day. As the graduates walked across the platform and received their diplomas from the president, he smiled, shook their hands, and said loudly, "Congratulations!" Then, in a much lower voice, one that was firm and could be heard only by the graduates, he would say, "Keep moving."

He was only trying to keep the line moving across the stage, but his words were good advice for a lifetime: "Keep moving." After every achievement – graduation, marriage, job promotion, even retirement – the best advice is, "Keep moving." Don't stop. Don't stagnate. There is more to life than you have found thus far. This is not the end; it is only the beginning. Keep moving.

---Sourcebook of Wit & Wisdom

Jesus did not command the whole world to go to church. Jesus commanded his church to go to the whole world.

"Don't tell Daddy, but I love YOU just as much as HIM."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*

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"You can be a great deal too solemn about Christianity. To be a good Christian ... you must have mirth. If you do not have mirth you will surely have madness."

– G.K. Chesterton

"People will forget what you said; people will forget what you did; but people will always remember how you made them feel."

---Maya Angelou

"If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, then animals are better off than a lot of humans."

– James Herriott

All Creatures Great and Small