Pastor’s Pen by Nathan Custer

HAPEEENUYEER!

It’s 2022 and it’s time for us to re-evaluate and look at life creatively!

Someone once said that we’re the sum total of our daily habits, and if there’s truth in that then what did 2021 say is the sum of all your habits?

For our church in 2022 we’re going to intentionally evaluate life and ministry at the ‘all-church’ level and at the ‘you-and-me’ personal level with this question in mind: How shall we intentionally and methodically adjust our habits as individuals and the congregation as a whole, such that by the end of the year we’ll be more like Jesus and closer to Him?

Back in the 1700’s the original little group of Christian leaders that became known as the first “Methodists” were so called because through their daily habits they were intentionally trying to become more holy, closer to God, and more like Jesus in heart and mind and actions. It’s funny these days to think of the term “Methodist” being a put-down, derogatory type of term that was used to make fun of that little group, because today we know that being more methodical can help us to improve in almost any area of life! Whether it’s physical therapy in a nursing home or in an NFL football training camp, everyone knows habitual actions that are methodically planned will help us to live lives that are better all around. Those early Methodists were just ahead of their time!
So, here is the first set of ideas and Bible passages and questions for January that I’ll preach on and hold discussion sessions on. For you, each day ponder over and over the verse(s) for that week, think about the main idea of those same passages every day for those seven days, and try the exercises. Bit by bit we’ll grow in our faith and get stronger in our ministry outward to the people around us. It’s a new year and behold, God makes all things new!

Jan. 2
Philippians 3:12-14 – Paul challenges us to live by “looking forward to what is ahead”; Re-evaluate life, think about what 2021 showed you about yourself and God, confess and repent of any problems from that year, then re-set your sights toward God for your future! What’s God calling you to do in 2022?

Jan. 9
Matthew 20:32 – Jesus asks: "What do you want me to do for you?" -- Do you really want God's will for your life? What ARE three things you and God want for your life?

Jan. 16
2 Peter 3:14 – Peter says we’ll have to “make every effort” to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. --A methodist is and always has been one who intentionally makes methodical effort in his/her spiritual life and all of life, to please God; like a ‘rule of life’ that helps us to live holy lives together. Start your ‘rule of life’ today by writing down areas where you want to make more effort daily to grow as a child of God and follower of Jesus.

Jan. 30
Ephesians 5:1 – BELOVED children, dear, precious, cherished-- It’s vital that we do things that remind us how loved we are by God! God sent his son to us out of love for us, so love thyself as you imitate God's love! Place something out in the open that will remind you that you are deeply loved by the Creator of the Universe, and remind yourself daily: “I am deeply loved.”
Birthdays of the Month

January Birthdays
3     Darlene Craver
12    Greg Traught
31    Karen Hanson

January Anniversaries
3     Don & Eileen
18    Dwight & Dawn Youngkin
26    Joel & Florence Allen
       Greg & Karen Hanson

Welcome New Members
Mike and Lisa met in the winter of 1992, after being set up by Mike’s roommate. Mike was from Lexington, Ohio, and Lisa’s family lived in Worthington. In the summer of 1992, right after graduating from Capital University with a degree in Elementary Education, Lisa was working as a counselor at a middle school academic camp at Ohio Wesleyan University. Phillip and Sarah Connolly had sent their oldest son, John, to the camp and when Phillip heard that Lisa was still looking for a teaching job, he offered her an interview at Trinity Lutheran School where he was serving on the school board. Lisa had been offered three teaching positions, but something called her to the one with the least pay and the biggest heavenly rewards. In August of 1992, Lisa made the decision to relocate to Marysville from Worthington and begin her teaching career teaching 6th grade at Trinity Lutheran School. To Lisa, this was a calling. Having never heard of Trinity and certain that it was a God incidence that she met the Connolly family-confident it was part of God’s plan. Mike and Lisa had been dating a little over 7 months and he still had his senior year to complete at Otterbein University. In January of 1993, Mike and Lisa were married and a few months later he wrapped up his degree in elementary education and took a teaching job at Triad, teaching 6th grade as well. In those early years we were often asked to spend weeks at a time staying with Lisa’s students as the families traveled on vacations and mission trips. It was a great way to practice for when we would have a family of our own. In 1995 there was a little setback in that plan, as Lisa was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and only a few short years later Mike had a scare with
with melanoma. During that time, we were introduced to the Emmaus Community and both enjoyed our walks and serving on teams. We were members at Trinity, where Lisa taught, but had always enjoyed the events sponsored by MFUMC. As our health continued to send us on twists and turns, we continued to look to the day that we would have a child of our own. Mike learned that he loved working with children, but did not enjoy teaching and found his way into the business world. Thankfully he landed a position with Union Rural Electric in 2000 and has been with this amazing company in various positions since. Mike continued to tutor students on the side, as he truly loved working with children! With Lisa’s health history, our pregnancy journey tested our faith, but we never gave up hope. We truly believed God had a plan and leaned into trusting that plan for our family. In February 2001, a month earlier than expected, Myah came into our world and has not stopped blessing us since. As Mike and Lisa desired Myah to attend Trinity when she was starting preschool, Lisa took a position at an online school and eventually landed at Buckeye Valley Local Schools where she currently teaches 8th grade Language Arts. Myah was blessed to lay the foundation of her faith during her preschool through sixth grade years at Trinity. From Trinity she moved onto Bunsold and in 2019 graduated from Marysville Early College High School. As a freshman Myah attended West Virginia University before transferring to Miami University where she is studying primary education. Myah is a Resident Assistant and one of the student leaders in a women’s ministry organization, Delight, on campus. She will graduate in 2023. The past two summers she has fallen in love with serving the youth of MFUMC and worked as a youth intern. Although we started attending more frequently the fall of 2018, it was Myah that really called us into the family of MFUMC and spurred us to make the commitment as a family to join in the fall of 2021.

We are so thankful for MFUMC! We have enjoyed being in a marriage focus small group, serving on church initiatives, supporting the youth programs and attending as a family. Mike has really enjoyed working with his men’s group to bless others in the church and is looking forward to being an assistant lay director on the upcoming Emmaus Men’s Walk. We know God has continually led us to this moment, with this church, and in this amazing community!
Remembering 2021
THANK YOU for your continued and faithful giving! Your gifts supported the successful Fall Family Night Wednesdays that included the Nursery, KICK Club, Outbreak and Pastor Nathan’s Bible Study. Another opportunity to give is through the traditional Annual Christmas Offering for specific ministries: Methodist Creative Preschool, ECHO, Good Works, Kindway or general national/global ministries on Christmas Eve.

Payoff of Organ Console through Nov 2021

Gifts designated to the organ fund do not become part of the formula that determines our annual apportionments to the conference and district. If you enjoy the organ music, please consider giving to the organ fund. Thank you!

Giving vs Budget Year to Date Nov 2021

Giving vs Expenses Year to Date Nov 2021
Happy New Year 2022