FUMC IOP Newsletter

THOUGHTS UPON UNITED METHODISM

Years ago I was in an intensive care hospital room visiting a very ill woman who had just undergone a major medical operation. I was focused on her and her care in those critical hours after surgery. A nurse walked into the room and noticed my clergy badge and asked me what church I "preached" at. I told him the name of the United Methodist Church I was currently appointed to as pastor. His follow-up question nearly floored me; he asked, "Then, what do you all preach over there?"

Since that time, I have sought thoroughly to clarify "what we preach over there." I am continually aware that we are a people called United Methodists for a reason: we speak a distinct theological language, we have a distinct way of articulating our faith, and we have a rich doctrinal heritage. Our distinct theology and faith is rooted in the sermons and writings of John Wesley who started this "Methodist movement."

The following quotes are taken from The Works of John Wesley, and they strike at the root of "what we preach over there"

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out." [1]

Wesley argued we Methodists would lose our way and become a "dead sect" unless we hold fast to the doctrine, spirit, and discipline that launched this Methodist movement. So, have we lost our way? Have we forgotten the "doctrine, spirit, and discipline we once had? Have we forgotten who we are? Then, what is our foundational doctrine? Consider the following quote from Wesley that addresses our foundational doctrine:

"The Bible is the whole and sole rule both of Christian faith and practice. Hence they learned (1.) That religion is an inward principle; that it is no other than the mind that was in Christ; or, in other words, the renewal of the soul after the image of God, in righteousness and true holiness. (2.) That this can never be wrought in us, but by the power of the Holy Ghost. (3.) That we receive this, and every other blessing, merely for the sake of Christ: and (4.) That whosoever hath the mind that was in Christ, the same is our brother, and sister, and mother."

This brief historical survey may have painted a pretty bleak picture of the present state of the contemporary church. But, I believe steadfastly that there is hope. We have a hope for the present and a hope for the future of the people called United Methodists. It is, however, time to acknowledge our roots and hold fast to Christ Jesus and stand on the Word of God. Remember, when someone asks what is preached and believed "over there," you might declare that we "preach the Bible over there", and we believe firmly in Christ and his completed and universal atoning work. Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace,

Charles

Pastor Charles

[1] John Wesley, "Thoughts Upon Methodism," Bicentennial Edition: The Works of John Wesley.

Upcoming Events



MONTHLY MISSION NIGHT

November 2nd & December 7th

4:00pm at Star Gospel Mission

6th-12th graders are invited to join as we make a meal for our friends in need once a month at Star Gospel Mission. Afterwards we will grab a bite to eat downtown and talk about our mission together. RSVP on Realm or call the church office.

YOUTH BEACH BIBLE STUDY

November 17th & December 1st 5:00pm

Middle and High School Youth are invited to come together to grow their faith through study once a month. We will gather at the Church, share a meal, and walk on the beach for devotion.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: **Call the Church Office: 843-886-6610**

Upcoming Events



LIVE NATIVITY

December 6th
6:00pm

Join us for a special Live Nativity led by First Church's youth. Come celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with us and share in this hearwarming tradition!

THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN

December 13th
6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Join us for a beautiful Christmas celebration featuring our Festival Choir, instrumental ensemble, handbells, beloved carols, and inspiring narration. Experience the wonder, joy, and hope of Christ's birth through music and the timeless Christmas story. Everyone is welcome!

Seaside Serenades Concerts are free to the public. If you feel inclined to donate to the Music Ministry program, include "Seaside Serenades" in your check memo or online donation.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: **Call the Church Office: 843-886-6610**

Advent













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Advent



LOOKING AHEAD

Youth Ski Trip

January 30th - February 1st

6th-12th graders are invited to come on our annual youth ski trip! You will have the option to ski or snowboard. We will be staying at Lake Junaluska and they will be providing all of ours meals and this is included in the cost. Friends that are non members are welcome to join! Scholarships are avaliable!



FOR MORE INFORMATION: **Call the Church Office: 843-886-6610**

HOW CAN YOU VOLUNTEER AND GET INVOLVED WITH FUMC MISSIONS?

Let us know your interests and we'll get you connected!
Contact Jen at jenrobertson@iopmethodist.com

- **Shepherds Ministry**- Outreach, care and correspondence for the sick and shut-ins of our community.
- **Star Gospel Mission**- Prepare and serve monthly meals with FUMC youth to men, women and children in the SGM Program.
- **Respite Care Charleston**- Volunteer with this half-day memory care program that provides support and respite to caregivers.
- **Medical Missions**- Yearly mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico to support sustainable Christian ministries by building churches, hospitals, schools and vocational training centers.
- **Garden Angels**- Keeping our church grounds and prayer garden maintained and beautiful.
- **Connections**- Men from all walks of life growing in faith, building relationships, and serving others.
- **ECCO**- Donate needed food items to East Cooper Community Outreach.
- **HALOS**- Donate items, provide resources, and support kinship care.
- **Epworth**- Yearly mission trip to Columbia to build and repair facilities of the SC Methodist Children's Home.
- **American Red Cross Blood**- Yearly blood drive.
- **American Cancer Society Hope Lodge**- Prepare and deliver meals to families of cancer patients
- **Meals on Wheels**- Delivering healthy meals to homebound seniors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: **Call the Church Office: 843-886-6610**

Recurring Events

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

Children ~ 4:00-5:30pm
Youth ~ 5:30-7:00pm



MAHJONG MONDAYS

Mondays from 3:00-6:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall



MUSIC MINISTRY

Handbell Choir
Wednesday afternoon
Fellowship Hall
4:30-6:00 pm

Chancel Choir
Sunday Morning
10:00am
&
Wednesday afternoon
Choir Room
6:30-7:30 pm

BIBLE STUDIES

MLBS:
Contact Wessie Mitchell to get involved. (843)-886-0873

Jesus in the Gospels:
Contact Mike Holman to get involved. (704)-477-4845

Devotional Beach Walk:
Contact Suzanne Redford to get involved. (843)-806-8786

FOR MORE INFORMATION: **Call the Church Office: 843-886-6610**

Save The Date!

NOV 2ND	Monthly Mission Night 4:00pm at Star Gospel Mission
NOV 15TH	New Member Sunday 10:30am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
NOV 15TH	Chrismon Making 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
NOV 17TH	Youth Beach Bible Study 5:00pm (meets at the Church beforehand)
NOV 29TH	Hanging of the Greens 10:30am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
DEC 1ST	Youth Beach Bible Study 5:00pm (meets at the Church beforehand)
DEC 6TH	Live Nativity 6:00pm on the Church yard
DEC 7TH	Monthly Mission Night 4:00pm at Star Gospel Mission
DEC 13TH	Pre-k - 4th Grade Christmas Brunch 11:30am
DEC 13TH	5th - 12th Grade Christmas Dinner 5:00pm
DEC 13TH	The Windows of Heaven Seaside Serenades Concert 6:30pm in the Sanctuary
DEC 21ST	The Longest Night Service 6:00pm in the Sanctuary
DEC 24TH	Christmas Eve Services 4:00, 6:00, and 9:00pm in the Sanctuary
DEC 27TH	Lessons and Carols 10:30am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

REMINDER:
There will be ONE Worship Service on Sundays at 10:30am