

July/August, 2014



So I am watching the World Cup. How I love this game and look forward to this time .....sadly it only comes around every four years. Two weeks in and things are crazy already. Both my teams won last week, in case you are wondering, Germany and the US, and yes they will play against each other Monday. By the time you read this we will know who has prevailed. The World Champion, Spain already eliminated after only two games, wow, who would have thought? Chile is looking pretty amazing, Holland pretty good also, but how about Costa Rica?

Soccer like so many other sports is emotionally driven, a little like church huh? So come and walk down this path with me...I'll explain.

First of all, I love soccer, and not just for the sport itself but also for the place it held in my life. As you might be able to imagine, or possibly have gone thru yourself, growing up without parents and especially without a father wasn't always easy for me. So soccer "The Game", the other players, their parents, and my coaches ended up having an incredible impact on my life. The same is also true for so many people who might have felt lost, lonely and abandoned and one day found a home in the church. We would do well to remember the impact our church can have on those who are searching and are in need of a family, of a safe place, of a smiling face. What we do or don't do...it is so important...it has meaning, deep meaning for body and the spirit...it has worth, much more than we can realize on most days. We should treat it as such, to me this means making relationships our priority... finding the good in each other...looking down the road, seeing the bigger picture, finding hope in tomorrow...whatever that may look like. Just like in soccer, there will be another game.

The second piece of my thought has to do with playing and watching a game of soccer. This is often like being on a roller coaster, one minute you are walking on water, and the next minute you are gasping for what feels like your last breath. This up and down, this thrill, this fear for some people is how they feel alive, while others hate it. There is anger and there is love, there are amazing feats, moments of glory when humanity almost reaches to the skies, those of course are followed by moments when one wonders what God must have been thinking creating us and how ashamed we are to be wearing our team colors. Those emotions are powerful, and they can drive us to our highest highs and our lowest lows.

But there has to be more than just emotions, just glory, just a good feeling. There has to be a true and solid foundation, there has to be a deeper commitment, and there has to be a love for "The Game", not just for one of the games, but "The Game" as a whole. This same truth should also hold true for the church. It is always nice to feel good, to have a perfect worship service, to have sugar on the strawberries, to have great music, a wonderful children's program etc. However what if there is a Sunday that makes us feel more ashamed than proud of being part of this church, or when by accident we add salt instead of sugar to our strawberries? Or what happens when there is a month when things do not seem as wonderful as they usually feel, when the money is tight, or the pews feel emptier? Or what happens when there is a season when the laughs of children are only in our memories, or we cannot wait for the Bishop to send a new pastor along who will fix all of our problems? This is the moment we need to have a deeper commitment, and not just to this day, this Sunday, this program, and this pastor. But to what "The Game" means, to what "The Church" means in the long run. For those whose life's it is changing today as well as for those whose life's still need to be changed in the future. When can we look beyond our own petty needs and wants, likes and dislikes? When can it be about more than beautiful goals and back heel passes and bicycle kicks? It is the beautiful game after all...and the church it is Jesus' Bride after all...

So the next time we see a soccer game, or the next time we come to church, let's look for the possibilities. Let's look for the simple truth that lasts beyond the glory of the moment. Look for the beauty ever present regardless of how we might feel. Become more aware of what it might mean to the person sitting at the end of our pew, and let's commit ourselves fully...let's put in more than just a toe...let's dive in.

Peace, rene

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**Tide Me Over** provides foodstuffs and toiletry articles for those in need who come to our church. We are asking our members to contribute to our food pantry by bringing a canned food donation and/or a toiletry article.

Each month we will choose a different food and toiletry article. Toiletry items are being included because those items are not included in food stamps. We have been including toilet tissue, bar soap and shampoo. Toothpaste could also be used.

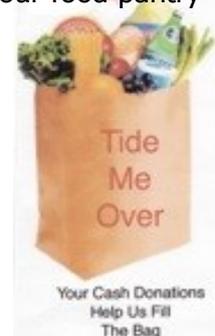
As you come on Sunday mornings, the items can be put into the Tide Me Over basket in the narthex next to the door to the Fellowship Hall. They will be gratefully included in our food pantry and put in the Tide Me Over sacks.

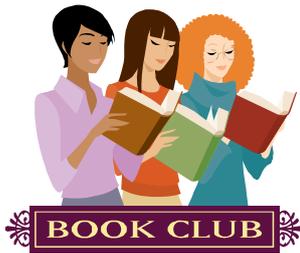
For July the canned food item will be fruit. The toiletry item will be shampoo.

We will keep you posted as to the Food and Toiletry item of the month.

Thanks so much for contributing to this necessary food ministry.

Barbara Vining





Here are the books we will be reading and discussing after our summer break, for those who would like to get a head start on the reading during the summer months!

**September: "And the Mountains Echoed"**

**October: "Doc"**

**November: "The Invention of Wings"**

**December: "Boys in the Boat"**



## United Methodist Women

- All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend
- 1st Thursday of each month 10:30 am

## United Methodist Men

- All men of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend
- Third Wednesdays 7:30 pm

## Women's Book Group

- Meets 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (except July and August) in member's homes.

## Sunday School

- Each Sunday Sept through May  
9:30 a.m.

## Adult studies

- Adult Sunday school class
- "God Has Left the Building"  
Sunday 9:30 am in room 1

## Music

- The "Unity Crew" rehearses Sundays at 9:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

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**Check out our website!**  
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