

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



The Pastor's Epistle...

Okay With Harm Which Happens Gradually?

We're okay with harm which happens gradually. Code words like *grace*, *introductory*, *sub*, & even *free* lure people everywhere into financial agreements which for the short term have too-good-to-be-true benefits. I don't know many people who haven't taken on some risk and entered into a variety of these agreements. If you can gain some benefit and get out of the agreement fast enough, then you can avoid the harming affects of the agreement which follow the initial lure. (Maybe.)

We're okay with harm which happens gradually. Code words like *companionship*, *e-harmony*, *gentleman's*, & even *adult* lure people everywhere into relationship agreements which for the short term have too-good-to-be-true benefits. If you can gain some benefit and get out of the agreement fast enough, then you can avoid the harming affects of the agreement which follow the initial lure. (Maybe.)

We're okay with harm which happens gradually. Code words like *crystal*, *beauty*, *ecstasy*, & even *candy* lure people everywhere into drug agreements which for the short term have too-good-to-be-true benefits. If you can gain some benefit and get out of the agreement fast enough, then you can avoid the harming affects of the agreement which follow the initial lure. (Maybe.)

Why are people okay with harmful affects which happen gradually? Why are people not okay with helpful affects which happen gradually?

Greed. Carelessness. Curiosity. Evil. Unrepentant hearts. All of these are leading people towards destruction. People everywhere need more than a series of too-good-to-be-true benefits, they need a Savior with the name of Jesus Christ.

The message of Christ is one of humility and it is said that with humility comes great wealth. Gradually. No Code Words to disguise the truth. Just the truth being secured by Jesus Christ! Hopefully, as you read this article you found yourself saying that you are not okay with harm which happens gradually. Obviously, financial harm is not as harmful as relationship harm and/or

drug dependency. If something stirs you about this message, and you want to know more of what I was thinking, please let me have the chance to talk with you and explain!

Praying for the Full Experience of Christ to Enter Into Our Common Life,

Pastor Ken



Worship for March

2nd Series: What Works for the Team
Mark 1:35-37 / Matt 14:22-24 / Psalm
139 / Isaiah 30:15
Sermon: Know Time Outs



9th Series: What Works for the Team
Psalm 139:1-3a, 7-10 ; Colossians 3:12-17
Sermon: Knowing Each Other On and Off the
Court

16th Palm Sunday
Series: What Works for the Team
Mark 11:1-11 / Phil 2:1-11
Sermon: Looking At the Cross: I or T
(Individual or Team)

20th Maundy Thursday
Last Supper Re-enactment

21st Good Friday
Tenebrae Service

23rd Easter Sunday
Service of Baptismal Renewal
& Holy Communion
John 1:1-18 / Luke 24:1-12
Sermon: Easter Becomes You

30th Series: First Love
Matt 9:35—10:42
Sermon: Back to Square One





Budget Update Thru February 2007

MJUMC's '08 Budget \$86,152.12
52 Sundays

	February Offering	Year-to-Date Offering
Actual	\$6,371.65	\$18,055.63
Needed	\$6,627.08	\$13,254.16
Difference	- \$ 255.43	+\$ 4,801.47

Happy March Birthdays!

- 3/2 Bob Luse
- 3/3 Gary Driver
- 3/5 Patrick Henry
- 3/6 Ted Dent
- 3/9 Betty Phillips
- 3/26 Warren Bock
- 3/29 Peggy Neff
- 3/30 Barry Davis



Little Bits

Jack goes to the revival meetin' and listens to the preacher. After awhile the preacher asks anyone with needs to be prayed over to come forward to the front at the altar.



Jack gets in line, and when it's his turn, the preacher asks, "Jack, what do you want me to pray about for you?"

Jack replies, "Preacher, I need you to pray for my hearing."

The preacher puts one finger in Jack's ear, and he places the other hand on top of Jack's head and prays and prays.

After a few minutes, the preacher removes his hands, stands back and asks Jack, "Jack, how is your hearing now?"

Jack says, "I don't know, Reverend, it's not until next Wednesday."

Speaking of hearing, did you hear we have had 80 to 90 at our services this past month? Amen! Also, how about our trip to Kentucky to help repair some homes for the poor? Close to twenty have shown some interest. (See the Pastor for details) The Monday night bible study has about 26 persons. Troy Hackenbracht received his Eagle Scout award at a Scout Court of Honor on Sunday the 16th. at the Church. And the last meeting of the Ladies set a record for attendance.

And, finally, Spring begins March 20th.
Jack Sperry, Historian

Methodist Men's Message



We Methodist Men had our February meeting the 20th at the Church Social Hall. The Ladies served 22 members and guests a nice chicken dinner. Our Speaker was Mt. Jackson Town councilman Rodney Sheppard, who gave us some interesting facts about the past, present, and future of Mt. Jackson and explained the way taxes are received and where our money goes. Rodney is running for reelection in May. He has my vote!

President Howard Hackenbracht asked for committee reports. Pastor Ken said they will try to have the early Easter morning service outside the Union Church this year. Doug Estep will be in charge of Easter morning breakfast after the sunrise service. Our mission trip to Kentucky will be in August as discussed and will be held to help rebuild some homes.

Anthony Hammer gave the devotions.

Next meeting will be March 19th. All men are welcome to attend. We eat at 6:30PM. Hope to see you then!

Jack Sperry

Congratulations to our own Troy Hackenbracht, new Eagle Scout!



Easter Morning Services

Sunrise service will be held at the Union Church on Main Street at 6:30 AM (outdoors unless inclement weather).

Free Will Pancake Breakfast to follow at MJUMC.

Regular service celebrating Easter at 11:00 AM in MJUMC Sanctuary.

[See calendar for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday planned services.]

Lent and Holy Week



A lot happens during March in the church this year. Too much to put in one newsletter, so... how about we talk primarily about Lent and Holy Week and concentrate on Easter in April?

As you know, we have begun the season of Lent. During this time, there is a kind of tension between two facts: it is Lent, and Sundays are the Lord's Day. There is a certain somberness during Lent and although our purple paraments, somber banner, hymns, and preaching convey this to us, there remains that tension of it being the Lord's day... that every Sunday of the year (even during Lent) is a "Little Easter." Have you ever done the math? We say forty days of Lent yet if you count one by one from Ash Wednesday to Easter you come up with forty-six days! Why? Because Sundays are not counted in the forty days of Lent.

It is difficult to worship with a joyful heart while keeping in mind that we are preparing in our hearts and minds for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We need not sing all passion hymns, but "alleluia" types will probably be left out as we continue to sing of God's love, greatness, guidance, and faithfulness. A little extra note here... pay attention to the words as you sing. Hymns are a great teacher about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and theology in general.

The attitude of worship really takes a change as we begin Holy Week on Palm Sunday. These are the most intense days of the church year (and some of the most exhausting for your pastor--keep him in your prayers). Holy Week is an excellent time for you to increase your quiet time a little and dwell on the scriptures in the gospels leading up to the death of Jesus.

On Palm Sunday we begin our service singing "Hosannas" as we celebrate Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people worshipping and cheering and strewing palm branches in front of him. How quickly the mood changed. Some of these very people would soon be crying out "crucify him" instead of "hosanna."

At our church this year, we will worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. As we do, we will be preparing our hearts to grieve over the crucifixion. You really need to attend these services, but history proves that many people do not. So, what happens? People come Palm Sunday and joyfully sing Hosanna to the King and when they return a week later on Easter Sunday we are singing that he rose from the dead. What? Did I miss something here? Hence more emphasis has been given to the passion on Palm Sunday in recent years and we now call it Passion/Palm Sunday. We will celebrate with palms, but you may be surprised to see worship aids such as a veiled cross, a crown of thorns, a whip, a sponge, a spear, nails, a bag of coins or

no flowers on the altar.

The Holy Week story focuses on the Paschal Mystery. Definition: the saving power and benefits of Christ's death and resurrection. I have another word that may be new to some of you, "triduum," meaning literally "three days." It is the Latin name given to the span of time from the celebration of Holy (Maundy) Thursday sunset up to sunset on Easter Day.

On Holy Thursday evening we relive with the disciples that fellowship meal on the threshold of the Passover in which Jesus uttered the unforgettable words with the sharing of the bread and the cup... "This is my body... This is my blood of the new covenant," and commanded that we forever, "Do this in remembrance of me."

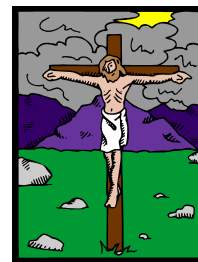
On Good Friday we will celebrate a Service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning "darkness." On this evening, no flowers, images or decorative materials should be used except those representative of the way of the cross. The altar and pulpit should be bare of cloth and candles used in the regular service. The cross may remain and be veiled in deep scarlet or black. Because of the transparent nature of a veil, the shadow of the cross remains and draws attention to it.

The service of Tenebrae grew out of a combination of night prayers and early morning prayers with an additional focus on the commemoration of the passion. The latter was usually read by several deacons and later, in the Middle Ages, was read by Monastic choirs. The most significant feature of this service is the gradual dimming of the lights and the extinguishing of candles in the sanctuary until the church is in total darkness. The bare altar emphasizes the starkness of events recalled. The candles used in the service represent Christ and all followers of Christ and the larger candle represents Christ himself. The dramatic high occurs with the complete darkness and the loud noise, or "strepitus," signifying "it is finished."

As you leave this service in silence, remember the price Christ has paid for us.

Rev. Cyndy Frye

Information from: *The Handbook of the Christian Year*





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Church Calendar for 2008



3/2 Sun. Fourth Sunday in Lent, Purple

9:45 AM Sunday School
 10:00 AM Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders
 11:00 AM Worship

3/3 Mon. 7:30-9:00PM Disciple "Genesis"

8:00 PM AA, Library

3/4 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

3/6 Thurs. 6:45-7:15AM Weekly Prayer Breakfast

7:00 PM UMW

3/7 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

3/9 Sun. Fifth Sunday in Lent, Purple

9:30 AM Sunday School
 10:00 AM Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders
 11:00 AM Worship

3/10 Mon. 7:30-9:00PM Disciple "Genesis"

8:00 PM AA, Library

3/11 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

3/12 Wed. 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting

3/13 Thurs. 6:45-7:15AM Weekly Prayer Breakfast

3/14 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

3/16 Sun. Passion/Palm Sunday. Purple\Red

9:45 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders

11:00 AM Worship

3/17 Mon. 7:30-9:00PM Disciple "Genesis"

8:00 PM AA, Library

3/18 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

3/19 Wed. 6:30 PM UMM Dinner Meeting

3/20 Thurs. Maundy Thursday

6:45-7:15AM Weekly Prayer Breakfast

7:00 PM Last Supper Re-enactment with
light meal & communion at church

3/21 Fri. 6:30 PM Tenebrae Service Quicksburg

8:00 PM AA, Library

8:00 PM Tenebrae Service MJUMC

3/23 Sun. Easter Sunday, White or Gold

9:45 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders

11:00 AM Worship

3/24 Mon. 7:30-9:00PM Disciple "Genesis"

8:00 PM AA, Library

3/25 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

3/27 Thurs. 6:45-7:15AM Weekly Prayer Breakfast

3/28 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

3/30 Sun. Second Sunday of Easter, White/Gold

9:45 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders

11:00 AM Worship