



The Circuit Rider

Canton United Methodist Church



July / August 2024

From Pastor Brett:

Greetings, siblings, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! As I wrote in our last newsletter, the delegates to 2020/2024 General Conference were leaving to begin their work. Many of us celebrate the work of the delegates and the new beginning that we as United Methodists are presented with. However, there is still grief that we experience from the decisions that took place in Charlotte as well as the unexpected deaths we have recently witnessed within our congregation. While there will always be pain and a sense of loss, it is even more important for us to come together as a congregation to discern where God is leading us at this time.

At the close of General Conference in May of 2024, the delegates approved removing the restrictive language prohibiting LGBTQ+ individuals from being married within the church and to enter ordained ministry as an open, practicing, homosexual. Additionally, the delegates approved a plan to regionalize the denomination to become less U.S.-centric. Finally, there was a proposed and approved revised version of the Social Principles, which explains who we are and what we stand for as United Methodists. While these are good things, and we have been faced with the restrictive language for 52 years, there is still harm that has been done in the name of the UMC, friends and colleagues who have left for the GMC or other denominations, and those whom God has called home unexpectedly. These are traumas that we will navigate together as we discern where God is calling us to go.

God is doing a new thing in our midst, and I look forward to seeing where God is leading us. While we cannot change the actions of the past, we can strive to make sure the future doesn't resemble the past. May the Holy Spirit guide us, and may our ears, hearts, and minds, be open to where God is leading.



Church Picnic

Sunday, July 28th

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bend in the River

Our church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 28th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. We also ask that you please label the ingredients for those with allergies.



No Church Council or Trustee Meetings for the month of July and August. The meetings will resume Tuesday, September 10th.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Meetings will resume Wednesday, September 4th at 6 p.m.

Communion

July 7th

August 4th



Church Office Closed

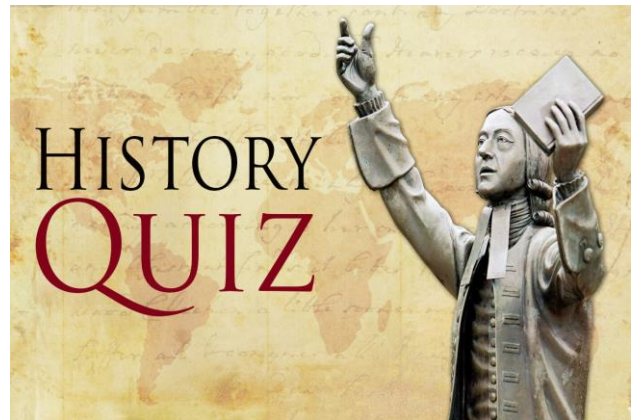
Test YOUR knowledge of Methodist History with this short quiz:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/early-methodist-history-trivia>

Sample question:

What Georgia city did John Wesley visit in 1735?

- Athens
- Atlanta
- Tybee Island
- Savannah



Tired of expensive food that tastes bad, that's bad for you, and bad for the Earth?

See how regenerative agriculture can put more money in farmer's pockets while promoting healthy soil and nutrient dense food.

Paul Sibbitts and I will be continuing to prescreen the movie Common Ground in the sanctuary during the months of July and August. Dates are yet to be determined. If you'd like to attend, please email Greg at greg@wastenotperma.org or call him at 718-496-5139.

You may view of trailer of Common Ground at <https://commongroundfilm.org/>

Our goal is to have a large community screening in the Fall.

This event is made possible by Waste Not Permaculture, Inc. If you would like to find out more about permaculture and our upcoming design class in Nicaragua, please go to our website. Paul attended the last class. You can ask him for details and feedback.

<https://www.wastenotperma.org/>

Greg Todd

Canton NY

718-496-5139

wastenotgreg@gmail.com



"Americans fear but one thing: inconvenience." From Fresh the movie.



1	Karen P.
7	Logan G.
10	Lyle C.
10	Scott R.
11	Kacie W.
12	Jeffrey S.
13	Gary W.
17	Janet H.
22	Lucas S.
24	Sally M.
25	Linda B.
26	Joyce W.
28	John B.
29	Jennifer L.

- 12th – Stuart & Susan Marquart
- 14th – Joe & Tari Briggs
- 18th – Jamie & Trudy Knowlden
- 20th – Dan & Denise Koser
- 22nd – Chip & Amy Bortnick
- 30th – John & Anneke Larrance

1	Hannah K.
1	Phyllis D.
4	Alma G.
5	Kevin A.
8	Bryan S.
12	Kathy K.
14	Ken L.
14	Tari B.
14	Kim B.
16	Mike S.
19	Roberta H.
20	Alex S.
23	Marie K.
24	Shirley P.
28	Paul S.
30	Richard W.



Coffee Fellowship

Our summer Coffee Fellowship will be on the following dates:

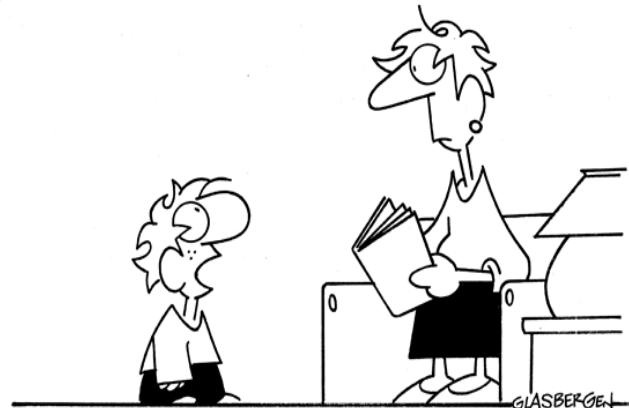
Sunday, July 14th at 11 a.m.

Sunday, August 11th at 11 a.m.



© Randy Glasbergen
www.glasbergen.com

- 6th - Fred Suchy & Joan Lambert
- 7th – Gary & Thadine Wight
- 9th – Paul & Pat Sibbitts
- 12th – Neil & Alma Garner
- 14th – Robert & Corrine Duda
- 29th – Steve & Lisa Elliot



"Our pastor says all men are brothers. Does that mean all men want to pull my underwear up over my head?"

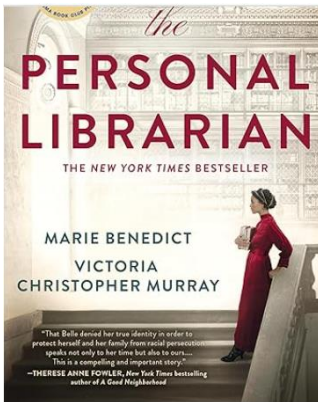
CANTON UMC BOOKLOVERS CLUB NEWS!

Upcoming Fall/Winter Books and Meeting Dates:

The Personal Librarian, September 7th

The Cape Doctor, October 12th

The Great Divide, December 7th



After a wonderful discussion of the book **Horse** by Geraldine Brooks at our June 15th meeting, we are taking some time off to enjoy the summer, but will reconvene in September. **Join us on Saturday, September 7, 1-3 pm** to share your thoughts on ***The Personal Librarian***.

From Amazon: A remarkable novel about J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation, from New York Times bestselling authors Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.



Pastor Brett will be out of the office the following dates this summer.

Camp Aldersgate Ministry – Sunday, July 14th – Thursday, July 18th

Vacation – Friday, July 19th to Thursday, July 25th

Vacation – Wednesday, August 7th – Monday, August 12th

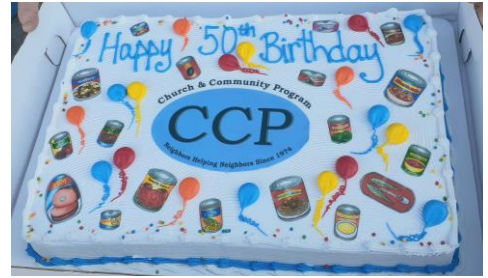


“Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.

- Eleanor Roosevelt



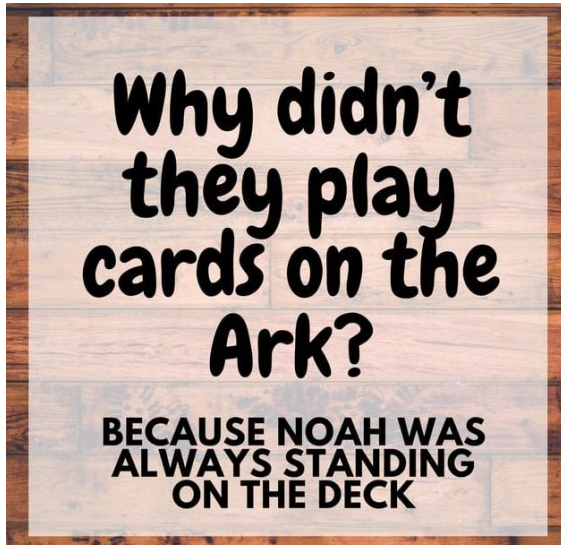
Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.



Special Announcement from the Church and Community Program

Save the Date: Saturday, September 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please join us for the 50th birthday celebration of the Church and Community Program at 30 Court Street




KEEP CALM I AM OUT OF THE OFFICE

Barb will be on vacation:
Thursday, July 4th to Monday, July 15th
Friday, August 2nd to Monday, August 12th



Thank you to all our choir members and piano players for their hard work over the past year.

If you are interested in either becoming a choir member or playing the piano, please contact Pastor Brett for more information!

Connecting with God through Nature*



After the long North Country winter and “mud season,” we all look forward to spending time outside during the summer months. Time spent outdoors can strengthen our faith and reveal a deeper meaning in our daily life. God equipped us with five senses to help us discover and better appreciate the natural world – it’s up to us to step outside, engage and explore.

Few could say they’ve experienced this more than Jack Layfield. In 2019, at age 67, Layfield served as a chaplain on the Appalachian Trail, hiking 2,192 miles through 14 states in 6 months. Layfield’s unique perspective opens the way for all of us to understand how nature can be a balm for our soul and an invitation to reflect.

“In everyday living in our world, all five of our senses are bombarded. We just have so much coming to us 24/7,” says Layfield. Being intentional about spending time in nature, and paying attention while we are there, can help us find peace.

Look

“At a young age I knew that God had created [nature], from the very little things that we see to the great, majestic things,” shares Layfield. “That was one of the things that was so good about the [Appalachian Trail]. There were the tiniest of wildflowers, the tiniest of little creatures. But then also there were the mountains with beautiful vistas when you reached the top.”

Put it into practice: Go outside or gaze out of your window. What’s the smallest thing you see? The biggest? Take a moment to marvel at God’s creativity and your own place in creation.

Read Scripture: [Psalm 96:11-12](#)

Hear

When people ask Layfield why he hiked the trail, he answers, “I love being out in nature, I love enjoying God’s creation. But the other reason is, after a while, I was able to experience the quietness of the trail, where I’m not bombarded by sounds. I felt like I could hear God speaking to me.”

Put it into practice: Layfield begins each day by sitting on his back porch, listening to the birds and soaking in the quiet stillness of the morning. Try this for yourself one day this week. Bring along your cup of coffee and a Bible.

Read Scripture: [John 10:27-30](#)

Taste

“On the trail, I had ramen noodles almost every night,” mentions Layfield. “And people say to me, ‘How did you eat that day after day?’ I can’t really say it tasted bad. I always looked forward to it. I think being outdoors, in nature, it enhances the taste somehow. That’s not a scientific thing, but for me, I think it has.”

Put it into practice: Pack a simple snack or meal and find a picnic spot. Eat slowly, with intention, and savor each bite. Give thanks for your surroundings, the food and anyone who might be with you.

Read Scripture: [Psalm 23](#)

Smell

“The things that we smell, we really don’t notice them unless it’s something really outstanding, like an apple pie baking in the oven.” Layfield says. “On the trail, after hikers had been hiking for 2, 3 or 4 months, there was a phenomenon that we’d be hiking and a day hiker would be coming the other way, and as they were at least 20 feet away, we could smell that hiker. It was a pleasant, usually soapy smell.”

Put it into practice: Sit outside for several minutes and close your eyes. Take a few deep breaths. What do you smell? Try to identify more than one scent. Remember that from this earth, God created you.

Read Scripture: [2 Corinthians 2:14-17](#)

Touch

“I have a little garden and I like digging in the dirt... I don’t know why people that garden do. Maybe there’s something about it that brings us all back into touch with what we once were,” suggests Layfield. “Maybe it all goes back to the Garden of Eden. I guess all of this maybe does.”

Put it into practice: Plant a seed. Hold the dirt. Get muddy. Care for your new plant over time and touch the leaves once they sprout. Think about the growth cycle and how you might emulate it in your spiritual life.

Read Scripture: [Genesis 1:9-12](#)

Homework: If you do try one or more of these suggestions to apply your five senses to connecting with God through Nature, be sure to share that experience with your church family the next Sunday! 😊

**Adapted from “Nature Connects Us to God,” by Laura Buchanan,
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/nature-connects-us-to-god>*



DEADLINE:
Newsletter Articles
Tuesday, August 20th

If you do not like the heat this summer,
watch our service on-line through Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/CantonUMCNewYork>



Stay Connected at
Church this Summer

UPCOMING EVENTS



United Women in Faith Meeting

Wednesday, September 4th – 6 p.m.

Church Meetings

Tuesday, September 10th – 6:30 p.m.

United Women in Faith Roast Beef Dinner

4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, September 20th

Treasurer Opening

After many years of service, we thank David Thompson for his faithfulness in serving as the treasurer of the Canton UMC. In light of his passing, we are seeking to lift someone up who can take on this responsibility. I ask you to prayerfully discern if you can step into this role of service for God and Christ's church. Please contact Pastor Brett if you are feeling called to serve in this way.



Canton United Methodist Church
41 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617



CANTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
41 COURT STREET
CANTON, N.Y. 13617
PHONE: 315-386-4500
E-MAIL: cantonumcny@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.cantonumcny.org
Facebook: CantonUMCNewYork

Upper New York Conference
Rev. Hector Burgos
Northern Flow District Superintendent
Rev. Mike Weeden

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Join us in our sanctuary
or on Facebook Live
www.facebook.com/CantonUMCNewYork
Brett Johnson, OS� - Pastor
Barbara Reome – Administrative Assistant
TBA - Musician
A & M Cleaning Service - Sexton