

HOPEWELL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

'A Place to Find Hope and Be Well'

*20220 Hopewell Road
Mount Vernon, OH 43050*

*Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ
and minister to the needs of others in His name.*

August - September 2020

Pastor's Ponderings – *Pastor Lee Cubie*

[Editor's note: Pastor Lee completed this article one day before "Householder" became a headline word/name in Ohio media.]

The Householder



Householder is not a word we hear very often now. One could say it is an archaic word. It is used by bible translators to interpret a three-word phrase in Matthew 13:52, the Greek, which literally reads, "to a man a master of a house." The question then arises, what is a house? Obviously, it is a structure where people live, a dwelling place, for a literal twist. Metaphorically, it is used in many different ways in the scriptures. When we read the house of Jacob, or the house of David we are talking about the united kingdom of Judah and Israel. In the saying, "a house divided against itself cannot stand," Jesus is using it to describe the rule of Satan.

That is one way that Jesus uses the word "house." In John 14:2, "In my Father's house are many rooms," Jesus uses it to describe, not only heaven, but also, I believe, the indwelling of the Spirit of God.

In Matthew 7:24-27 we read these words, "Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon a rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded upon the rock. And every one who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it." Here we see Jesus is using the word house to describe a person.



In chapter 13 of Matthew, the concluding parable is, "...Therefore, every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new

and what is old.” (13:25) Householder, as seen above, describes a man who is a dwelling place. He is a dwelling place for the self, he is a dwelling place for the Spirit of God. The householder is also a scribe, someone who has been trained by the Spirit, through worship, prayer, meditation, discussions with other Christians, and the study of scripture to live out the word of God.

This scribe, this householder, whom is a dwelling place for his own self and the Spirit of God, now is to bring out of his storeroom “what is new and what is old.” This, of course, begs the question, “what is new and what is old”? I believe that “what is new” refers to the new covenant proclaimed and lived in Jesus Christ. The “what is old,” is the old covenant given to the house of David through Moses, that is the law. The promise of the new is forgiveness once and for all. It is also a promise that we can keep the law of God because he has given us of his Spirit. Therefore, the “treasure” that the householder brings out of his storeroom is the righteous fulfillment of the law through the grace of God in Jesus as we are enabled through the Holy Spirit.

For me and I hope for you, this parable is about the fulfillment of Jeremiah 33:31, “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” My question for us, is, “What has God been writing on our hearts lately?”



The Bible
--always ahead of its time.



To keep my skills up, I kidnapped the neighbors' Shar Pei and turned her into a Weimaraner. She looks fabulous.



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Hopewell holds first live worship service since March

On July 12, a beautiful, cool Sunday morning, worshippers assembled in the open space east of the church for the first face-to-face worship service in four months. Masking, social distancing, and sanitizing protocols were observed. Thanks to those whose efforts made the service possible:

John Wolfe, for arranging for a sound system,
Cheryl McCracken, for providing piano music, piped from inside the church on John's sound system,
Audra Cubie, for cueing Cheryl's music via cell phone and invoking safety measures,—and, of course,
Pastor Lee, for leading the service.



Top left: Bill Lawhon drops his contribution into the collection “pot.” *Top right:* Dave Holl reads scripture to the socially distanced and masked congregation. *Bottom left:* Pastor Lee preaches The Word. *Bottom right:* Self-explanatory.

Three Rivers to Hold District-Wide Conference *(adapted from the Three Rivers District newsletter)*
Save the date of October 20 for a district-wide conference to be held via ZOOM at 7 PM. There will be five locations, all gathering at the same time, for viewing the charge conference and participating in local church business. The pastor and one or two church leaders from each church need to be present at their assigned locations in order to constitute a quorum for an official charge conference. All church members can watch the conference from their personal devices. More details about the arrangements will follow.

Holy Communion

The United Methodist Church recognizes two sacraments, baptism and communion. These two acts have a special place in the church because Jesus commanded them and participated in them. Baptism marks the beginning of our lifelong journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. Communion nourishes and sustains us on the journey.

Holy Communion includes a profound act of remembrance that recalls the last supper Jesus had with his disciples. But it is more than just a ritual of remembering. It is primarily an act through which our connection with God, each other, and our life of ministry in the world is nourished and strengthened.

This Holy Mystery describes what we believe and practice in the sacrament: “Holy Communion is remembrance, commemoration, and memorial, but this remembrance is much more than simply intellectual recalling. ‘Do this in remembrance of me’ (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25) is *anamnesis* (the biblical Greek word). This dynamic action becomes re-presentation of past gracious acts of God in the present, so powerfully as to make them truly present now. Christ is risen and is alive here and now, not just remembered for what was done in the past.”

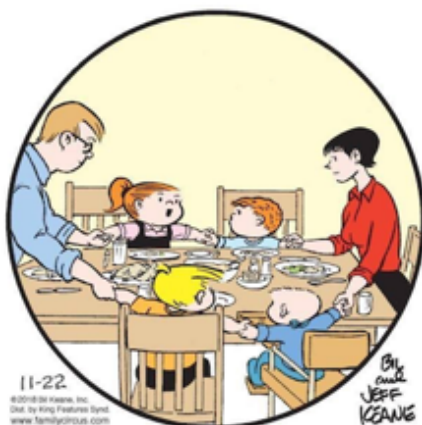


In the ritual, the prayer of Great Thanksgiving intentionally rehearses the entirety of God’s saving acts in history from creation to God’s covenant with Israel, through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. And in this prayer, we seek the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon us and the gifts of bread and wine we bring.

When we receive the bread and wine so “we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood,” we are *remembering*. At the same time, we are also *re-membered*, put back together again. We pray that we may be “one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.” God’s work of making us one and uniting us with Christ and with each other is the ordinary way by which God feeds us, sustains us and empowers us to live as Christians in the world.

In communion, we do remember the saving work God has already done in the world and is doing today. And we anticipate God’s future for the world and all creation. We’re partners with God in creating this future. We are strengthened and transformed by the presence of Christ in the bread and wine to respond to God’s love by loving God and others.

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“We hafta hold hands while we say grace so nobody gets a head start eating. Right, Mommy?”

By
and
JEFF
KEANELIVE
faith.

5-16

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“What does that story of Adam and Eve teach us?”
“Not to eat fruit.”

By
and
JEFF
KEANE

United Methodism as a World Church, 1968-

[This is the last in a seven-part series, "Learning about Our Methodist Roots," the forming and growing of the Methodist church, beginning 282 years ago.]

In 1968, The Evangelical United Brethren and The Methodist Church united. Full clergy status for women was included in the plan of union. Since then, an increasing number of women have been admitted to the ordained ministry, appointed to the district superintendency, elected to positions of denominational leadership, and consecrated as bishops. In 1980, Marjorie Matthews was the first woman elected to the Church's episcopacy.



When The United Methodist Church was created in 1968, it had approximately 11 million members, making it one of the largest Protestant churches in the world. Since then the church has become increasingly aware of itself as a world church with membership and conferences in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States. While worldwide membership in The United Methodist Church has grown since 1968, membership in Europe and the United States has declined, offset by significant growth in Africa and Asia. In Africa, The United Methodist Church has expanded episcopal areas to

include East Africa, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, East Congo, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa.

Changes in worship style, the rise of the charismatic movement, the growth of nondenominationalism, and the emergence of megachurches have all challenged the church as it entered its third century. Most trying, The United Methodist Church has had to negotiate cultural shifts with regard to gender and sexuality, especially in the United States and Europe. Conflicts over homosexuality, marriage, and abortion have continued uninterrupted nearly since the formation of the denomination. These debates have opened up large domestic, international, and ecumenical rifts over the church's doctrine and discipline.

The United Methodist Church continues to represent the confluence of three streams of tradition: Methodism, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, and The Evangelical Association. With other churches that are also members of the body of Christ, it humbly and gratefully offers up its praise to God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit for creating and sustaining grace. It seeks further grace as it ministers to the world.

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Church bulletin board

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'	The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.	At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.	The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.	This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.	Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.
The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.	The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'
Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.	This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.	

Compiled by Max Bowen

August 2020						
◀ Jul 2020						Sep 2020 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 National Girlfriends Day Knox County Fair ends B'day: Mick Gourley, Sr.
2 Friendship Day 9:30 Worship/Communion	3 National Watermelon Day	4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day B'day: Danielle Kanuckel	5 National Oyster Day	6 Wiggle Your Toes Day	7 International Beer Day	8 Sneak Some Zucchini onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day
9 Book Lover's Day 9:30 Worship	10 Lazy Day	11 Presidential Joke Day B'day: Bob Cornwell	12 Middle Child's Day	13 Left Handers' Day	14 V – J Day WWII + 75 Years	15 National Honey Bee Awareness Day B'day: Gina Lawhon
16 National Tell a Joke Day 9:30 Worship B'day: Linda Joseph	17 National Thriftshop Day	18 Bad Poetry Day B'day: Irma Newland	19 Aviation Day B'day: Bonnie Lawhon	20 National Radio Day	21 Senior Citizens Day	22 National Tooth Fairy Day
23 Ride the Wind Day 9:30 Worship	24 Vesuvius Day B'day: Mick Kanuckel	25 Kiss & Make Up Day	26 Women's Equality Day	27 Just Because Day B'day: Wayne Clayborne	28 Stuffed Green Bell Peppers Day	29 International Bacon Day
30 Toasted Marshmallow Day 9:30 Worship B'day: Bill Lawhon	31 National Eat Outside Day B'day: John Johnson B'day: Seth Lawhon	National Eye Exam Month Peach Month Water Quality Month Admit You're Happy Month				

September 2020						
◀ Aug 2020						Oct 2020 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Baby Safety Month Classical Music Month Little League Month Self Improvement Month		1 National Cherry Popover Day	2	3 Skyscraper Day	4 Newspaper Carrier Day	5 Be Later for Something Day
			B'day: George Ander		B'day: Natalie Gourley	B'day: Virginia Skinner
6 Read a Book Day 9:30 Worship/Communion	7 Labor Day National Salami Day	8 International Literacy Day	9 Teddy Bear Day	10 Swap Ideas Day	11 911 Remembrance Make Your Bed Day	12 Chocolate Milk Shake Day
	B'day: Corby Coon	B'day: Julie Britton				
13 Grandparents' Day 9:30 Worship	14 National Cream-filled Donut Day	15 Make a Hat Day	16 American Legion Day National Play Doh Day	17 Constitution Day	18 National Cheeseburger Day	19 International Talk Like a Pirate Day
	B'day: Cheryl McCracken	B'day: Jessica Hartney B'day: Rylanne Kanuckel-Wolfe			B'day: Jean Riley B'day: Bob Kaiser	
20 Wife Appreciation Day 9:30 Worship	21 International Peace Day	22 Autumn Equinox Elephant Appreciation Day	23 Dog in Politics Day	24 National Cherries Jubilee Day	25 Native American Day	26 Johnny Appleseed Day
B'day: Dorothy Ander		B'day: Cary Purcell	B'day: Kathy Kanuckel	B'day: Eleanor Doup B'day: Marsha Clayborne		
27 Crush a Can Day 9:30 Worship	28 National Good Neighbor Day	29 Confucius Day	30 National Mud Pack Day			

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