

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.*

April - May 2021

Pastor's Pondering – *Pastor Lee Cubie*

The Triumphal Entry



As I write this article spring has begun. The days are getting longer. The days are getting warmer. The birds are singing and are making nests. Mother's Day and Memorial Day are on the horizon.

As a church we have come through a very busy church season. As a church we will be entering into a season which the revised Common Lectionary calls 'Ordinary Time.' It is the season between Pentecost and the beginning of Advent. The Revised Common Lectionary calls for our paraments to be green. Before the Revised Common Lectionary was adopted the season was named the Season after Pentecost. The color of the paraments were the same as the Sunday of Pentecost, red.

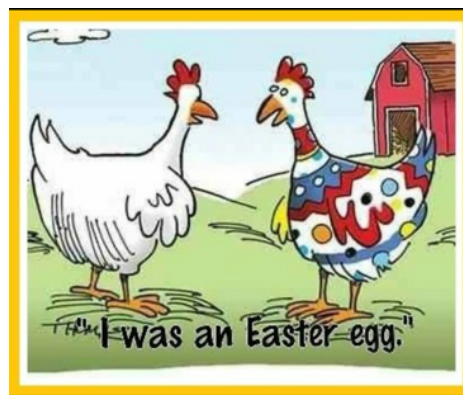
I mention this change because we have not been enriched by this change but impoverished. Using the word "ordinary" to describe the period of time after Pentecost does a disservice to the church's understanding of the time we live in. The writers of

the New Testament did not call it that. Paul writes, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you and helped you on the day of salvation. Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2) Paul is quoting from Isaiah 49:8. The text surrounding verse 8 speaks of who the Messiah is and what will be his actions. What Paul is doing is referring to the mighty works of God as he seeks to redeem his creation. How can we call this ordinary time?

Since the day of Pentecost, we have been living in extraordinary times. We are living in the first light of the new day! We are waiting for the Son to break over the horizon and fully illuminate God's creation. As John the Revelator reveals, "And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light shall the nations walk; and the kings of

the earth shall bring their glory to it, and its gates shall never be shut by day-and there shall be no night there; ..." (Rev. 21:22-25) How can we call 'ordinary' so great an expectation?

That passage tells of the complete triumph of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 4:8-13, Paul translates that complete triumph into the first light of the New Day. "Therefore, it is said, 'When he ascended on high, he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.' (In saying, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ..." The giving of the gifts should remind us of this moment of time, the time of the church. When he talks about descending and ascending, he is talking about Jesus' triumph over the ruler of this world and his triumphal entry into the New Jerusalem. That same New Jerusalem that we are promised will break fully into creation. How can this be ordinary time? We are part of the triumphal entry of God into his creation!

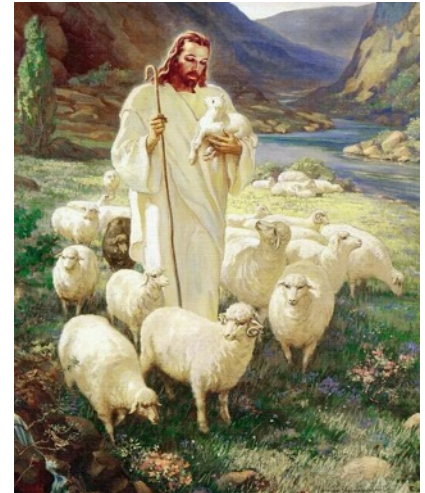


Bummer Lambs -- *Author unknown*

Every once and a while, a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. There are many reasons she may do this. If the lamb is returned to the ewe, the mother may even kick the poor animal away. Once a ewe rejects one of her lambs, she will never change her mind. These little lambs will hang



their heads so low that it looks like something is wrong with its neck. Their spirit is broken. These lambs are called "bummer lambs." Unless the shepherd intervenes, that lamb will die, rejected and alone. So, do you know what the shepherd does? He takes that rejected little one into his home, hand-feeds it, and keeps it warm by the fire. He will wrap it up with blankets and hold it to his chest so the bummer can hear his heartbeat. Once the lamb is strong enough, the shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock. But that sheep never forgets how the shepherd cared for it when its mother rejected it. When the shepherd calls for the flock, guess who runs to him first? That is right, the bummer sheep. It knows his voice intimately. It is not that the bummer lamb is loved more, it just knows intimately the one who loves it. It's not that it is loved more, it just believes it because it has experienced that love one on one. So many of us are bummer lambs, rejected and broken. But He is the good Shepherd. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heart beat. We may be broken, but we are deeply loved by the Shepherd.



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Hopewell Birthdays

- April
 - 2 Adam Lawhon
- May
 - 11 Josh Laymon
 - 11 Bitsi Gourley
 - 12 Phyllis Gourley
 - 12 Emma Laymon
 - 19 John Wolfe
 - 19 Amanda Wells
 - 30 Kathleen Burt



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A look back in time...

2016—the centennial celebration of the Hopewell church building



2019—Peeps Easter Diorama - “The Last Supper”



**Fannie Crosby (18
20-1915) - Prolific Writer of Hymns**



In the 1840's, this blind woman became a Methodist solely on their work and engagement with the marginalized. Because of her well-known intelligence and musicianship, she was encouraged to write sacred text. This encouragement led to over 8,000 writings. Some of Crosby's familiar hymns included in the 1998 United Methodist hymnal are:

To God Be the Glory (hymn #98)

Blessed Assurance (#369)

I Am Thine, O Lord (#419)

Rescue the Perishing (#591)

Crosby professed, "If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind...for when I die, the first face I will ever see will be the face of my blessed Savior."

Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. . .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn.	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.		He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.

◀ Mar 2021		April 2021					May 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 Maundy Thursday ~Nat'l Burrito Day	2 Good Friday ~Nat'l Peanut Butter & Jelly Day B'day: Adam Lawhon	3 ~Find a Rainbow Day	
4 Easter (tentative) 7 Sunrise Service 7:45 Breakfast 8:30 Worship/Communion	5 ~Read a Road Map Day	6 ~Plan Your Epitaph Day	7 ~World Health Day ~Nat'l Beer Day	8 ~Zoo Lovers Day	9 ~Name Yourself Day	10 ~Nat'l Siblings Day ~Golfers Day	
11 ~Barbershop Quartet Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/refreshments	12 ~Big Wind Day ~Nat'l Licorice Day	13 ~Scrabble Day	14 ~Int'l Be Kind to Lawyers Day ~Nat'l Dolphin Day	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due) Postponed to May 17 ~Rubber Eraser Day	16 ~Mushroom Day ~Nat'l Librarian Day	17 ~Husband Appreciation Day ~Blah, Blah, Blah Day	
18 ~Pet Owners' Independence Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	19 ~Nat'l Garlic Day	20 ~Volunteer Recognition Day	21 Administrative Professionals Day ~Kindergarten Day	22 Earth Day ~Take Your Daughter to Work Day	23 ~Nat'l Zucchini Bread Day	24 ~Pig in a Blanket Day	
25 ~Nat'l DNA Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	26 ~Nat'l Pretzel Day	27 ~Tell a Story Day	28 ~Int'l Astronomy Day ~Kiss Your Mate Day	29 ~Int'l Dance Day	30 Arbor Day ~Int'l Jazz Day		

The difference between death and taxes is death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets.

Will Rogers,
actor, humorist, social commentator

◀ Apr 2021		May 2021					Jun 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 ~May Day ~Kentucky Derby Day	
2 ~Brothers & Sisters Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	3 ~World Press Freedom Day	4 ~Bird Day ~Nat'l Teachers Day	5 Cinco De Mayo ~Bike to School Day	6 ~Nat'l Nurses Day ~Oyster Day	7 ~Nat'l Day of Prayer ~Nat'l Tuba Day B'day: Bitsi Gourley B'day: Josh Laymon	8 ~No Socks Day ~Military Spouses Day	
9 Mother's Day ~Lilac Sunday 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/refreshments	10 ~Clean Up Your Room Day	11 ~Eat What You Want Day	12 ~Limerick Day B'day: Emma Laymon B'day: Phyllis Gourley	13 ~Int'l Hummus Day	14 ~Dance Like a Chicken Day	15 Armed Forces Day	
16 ~Nat'l Sea Monkey Day ~Love a Tree Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	17 ~Pack Rat Day Tax Day (Taxes Due)	18 ~Visit Your Relatives Day	19 ~World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day B'day: Amanda Wells B'day: John Wolfe	20 ~Pick Strawberries Day	21 ~Nat'l Bike to Work Day	22 ~Buy a Musical Instrument Day ~World Goth Day	
23 ~World Turtle Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	24 ~Nat'l Tiara Day ~Victoria Day-Canada	25 ~Nat'l Wine Day ~Tap Dance Day	26 ~Sally Ride Day ~World Otter Day	27 ~Sun Screen Day	28 ~Don't Fry Friday	29 ~Learn About Composting Day	
30 ~Mint Julep Day ~Water a Flower Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Kathleen Burt	31 Memorial Day ~Save Your Hearing Day	~Date Your Mate Month ~National Barbecue Month ~National Salad Month ~Older Americans Month					

Hopewell United Methodist Church

c/o Bob & Linda Joseph, newsletter editors
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In-person worship services and some activities at Hopewell UMC have resumed, with safety precautions in place. Virtual worship services continue to be offered weekly via YouTube videos. Please contact Pastor Lee (lee@cubie.us or 740-504-8601 if you would like to be added to the e-mail notification list. Or check the HUMC Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVeiron) on Saturday or Sunday for a link to the worship service.