

HOPEWELL

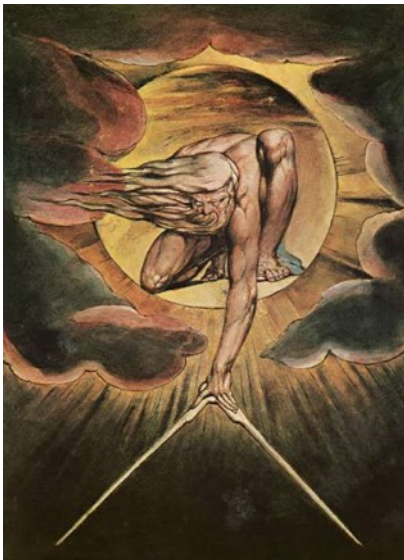
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

'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.*

June - July 2021



Pastor's Pondering – *Pastor Lee Cubie*

Practical Theology

The art that you see is an etching by William Blake, originally done in 1794. His inspiration for this etching comes from Proverbs 8:27, one of the creation accounts in the scriptures. The one we are most familiar with is the Genesis account. It begins, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form or void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

“And God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.” (Gen. 1:1-4)

Another account is found in Proverbs 8:22-31. I will not quote the text in its entirety, but I would encourage you to read it. The voice telling the story is that of Wisdom. She tells us, “The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the beginning of the earth.” (Prov. 8:22-23)

There are accounts in Psalm 104 and in Job. In Job we read, “Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: ‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding.’” (Job 38:1-3)

There is even an account in the New Testament. It is found in the Gospel of John. “IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (Jn. 1:1-5)

Why, you may ask, do you write about the creation under the title “Practical Theology?” I for one can find nothing more basic than the creation of all things. This is the nuts and bolts of everything. You will notice in the accounts above, what is created first, is light. This light is not the light of the sun, the moon and the stars, those lesser lights are created later. This light is the light that is God. In the Nicene Creed it is described this way, “We believe in the one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.” (United Methodist Hymnal 880)

This “Practical Theology” takes us to the very gates of the Doctrine of the Trinity. You may have noticed in the Genesis account that God, the Spirit, and the Light are mentioned. One could argue that this is the first reference of the Trinity. John links the Light with the Word which is the Son. I am not qualified, nor is there time or space for me, to seek to explain it. Let it suffice to say that God reveals himself as Father. Not a father but the essence of Father. God reveals himself to us as Son. Not a son but the essence of Son. And God reveals himself to us as Spirit. Not any spirit but that Spirit whose “thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways...” (Isa. 55:8) In Exodus 34 Moses asks God to give himself a name. God responds, “I AM WHO I AM” For me this is the essence of the Spirit. The Spirit that is God, is not made but is.

God is Father, God is Son, and God is Spirit. God is self-determining love. This means God does not react but acts, and he acts out of love. This leads me to one more creation account. It too is found in the Gospel of John. It is as important if not more so than the creation of the universe. It is our recreation.

In chapter three of John, we read a story about Jesus and Nicodemus. Nicodemus represents the best that men can be. Jesus tells him that is not enough. He tells him he has to become something that has yet to be born in this world. He does this through three Amen, Amen statements. In English it is translated as Truly, Truly, or Verily, Verily, to recite two translations. Amen is Hebrew for truth or certainty, or to put them together truthful certainty.

The first Amen, Amen statement comes in verse three. “Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless one is born anew he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Jesus just told Nicodemus; you need to become a new creation. Nicodemus expresses some confusion. Jesus responds with Amen, Amen, I say to you unless one is born of water and the *Spirit*, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the *Spirit* is *Spirit*.” Or that which is flesh can only be fleshy; it cannot become godly. The final Amen statement tells us that flesh cannot hear what Jesus is teaching; it can only be understood by the Spirit. And so we read, “Amen, Amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony.” As Jesus continues to speak, the solution to man’s inability to hear the gospel is revealed, “...as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” When we look to Jesus on the cross, or when people see us looking to the cross and being on the cross, the Spirit then prompts a faithful response.

Just as it took the Father, the Son and the Spirit to make the universe, so it takes the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to make God’s new creation, the redemption of mankind. Just as in the creation the directions came from the Father, the Son obeyed and made everything as directed, and the Spirit kept God holy, so they worked in conjunction to make us new. In verse sixteen we hear this echo, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Paul speaks of this in 2 Corinthians 5:16ff, “From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is anew; the old has passed away, behold the new is come.”



Lord make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love.

FROM PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI



The First Sign of Civilization - Ira Byock, an American physician, author, and advocate for palliative care

Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said.

We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized.



Acolytes in training – potential future leaders at HUMC

Hopewell Birthdays

June

- 10 Erin Lawhon
- 20 Greg Yashnyk
- 24 Lee Cubie
- 29 Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe

July

- 2 Mickey Gourley
- 2 Ellen Kaiser
- 20 Katie Beran
- 21 Ryan Rupp



More potential future leaders at HUMC and beyond!...and graduating seniors/leaders at Mount Vernon High School. Both good friends were named 'Bandmasters,' an honor bestowed for "putting the band before myself and always giving my all," in the words of Jessie Gourley (at left).

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'What does it mean to resist evil, injustice and oppression?'

– Source: *United Methodist Communications*

In our baptismal vows, United Methodists commit to "renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world" and "resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves."

Since the earliest times, the vows of Christian baptism have begun with the renunciation of evil and then the profession of faith and loyalty to Christ.



The renunciation of evil is rooted in Scripture. In Romans 12:9, we are taught to, "Love unambiguously, hating the evil, holding fast to the truth." Amos 5:15 similarly says, "Hate evil; love good. Maintain justice in the courts."

Loving and hating are not seen in Scripture as mere attitudes, but rather are understood as always being embodied in real action. The verb in Romans 12 for hate in particular means to hate violently or specifically, to abhor so completely that one takes action against the object of such hatred (the evil itself). We are called to take strong action against the evil that may be said to motivate, pre-condition or, in some instances, cause the actions other persons may take.

This does not, however, warrant violence against other people. Jesus is clear how we are to treat those who act with evil against us: love them, praying for

and doing good even to those who persecute us. (Matthew 5:44).

A persistent theme, especially in the Old Testament and through the prophets, is the constant call to resist evil, to end unjust economic practices and unjust courts, and to end oppression or lack of care for the vulnerable - widows, orphans, and foreigners in the land.

The 10 Commandments also make clear that we are to resist evil as it presents itself to us, and the rest of the justice codes in the Old Testament (Exodus, Numbers and Leviticus, in particular) make clear the social costs of failing to do this.

All of this biblical and baptismal history is the reason the Social Principles so frequently call United Methodists to act to resist evil, injustice and oppression. We are called to witness against racism and abolish inequality and discrimination, to reject criminal justice systems based on racist policies and practices and work for restorative justice, to speak against irresponsible use of the earth's resources and become good stewards of God's creation, and to oppose war and work for peace with justice.

Remember that the Methodists in England played major roles in the abolition of slavery, the creation of the labor movement, and the radical reformation of the penal justice and prison code of the whole British empire. The Methodists did not simply avoid evil in their own lives, they organized and worked with others to fight it as it appeared in the larger society.

United Methodists today, as servants of Christ, are sent into the world to engage in the struggle for justice and reconciliation.

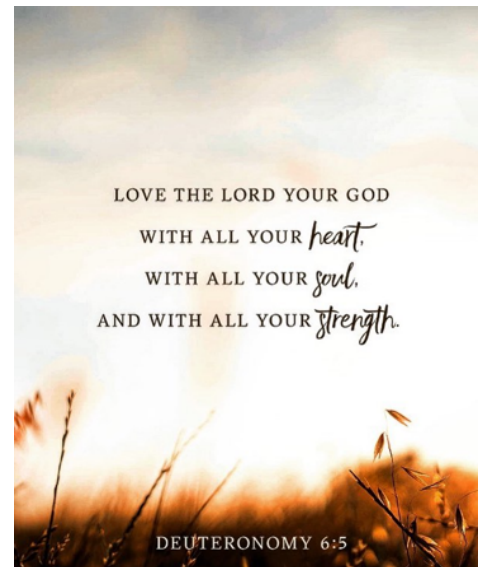
Scioto Ridge Boys Schedule

The Scioto Ridge Boys gospel quartet, including HUMC member Bob Joseph, are again ‘making a joyful noise to the Lord’ in several venues. If you are eager to leave the house and if you enjoy good old gospel music, consider traveling to one of these concerts. For more information, contact Bob at 614-565-1102.

- Sat, Jun 19 Lancaster Campground, Davis Auditorium, 7 PM
2151 W. Fair Avenue, Lancaster OH 43130
- Sun, Jun 27 Worthington UMC, 6 PM outdoor concert
600 High Street, Worthington, OH 43085
- Sat/Sun, Aug 14/15 Indiana State Fair, Pioneer Village
1202 East 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205
Sat – 2 and 5 PM
Sun – 10 AM and 11:30 AM
- Sun, Aug 22 Hilliard Arts Council Summer Concert Series
(time/location TBD)
- Sun, Sep 12 Hopewell UMC (Glenford), 11 AM worship service
11742 Gower Road NW, Glenford, OH 43739
- Sun, Sep 26 Batemantown/Berlin UMC joint worship service, 11 AM
Fredericktown Community Park,
12 Mill Street, Fredericktown, OH 43019
- Sun, Oct 10 LaRue UMC, 11 AM worship service
166 N. High Street, La Rue, OH 43332
- Sun, Nov 21 (tentative) Home Concert at Scioto Ridge UMC (time TBD)
4343 Dublin Road, Hilliard, OH 43026



Creator Credit: Man Martin at Man Overboard



Quotations of Interest --compiled by Dr. Chris Cordle, Apple Valley resident and friend of HUMC (and Bob/Linda J)

- “Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It’s about learning how to dance in the rain.”
- “To the world you may be just somebody, but to somebody you may just be the world.”
- “What most people need to learn in life is how to love people and use things, instead of using people and loving things.”
- “How can the world end tomorrow if it’s already tomorrow in New Zealand?”

◀ May 2021		June 2021					Jul 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 ~Dare Day ~Flip a Coin Day	2 ~Nat'l Bubba Day	3 ~World Bicycle Day ~Repeat It Day ~Repeat It Day	4 ~Hug Your Cat Day ~Nat'l Doughnut Day	5 ~World Environment Day	
6 ~WWII D-Day 1944 ~Nat'l Yo-Yo Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	7 ~Nat'l Chocolate Ice Cream Day	8 ~Best Friends Day ~World Ocean Day	9 ~Donald Duck Day	10 ~Ball Point Pen Day ~Herb and Spices Day B'day: Erin Lawhon	11 ~Nat'l Flip Flop Day	12 ~Red Rose Day	
13 ~Nat'l Weed Your Garden Day ~Sewing Machine Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/refreshments	14 Flag Day ~Monkey Around Day	15 ~Global Wind Day ~Smile Power Day	16 ~Fresh Veggies Day	17 ~Eat Your Vegetables Day	18 ~Go Fishing Day ~Int'l Picnic Day	19 ~Juneteenth ~National Kissing Day	
20 ~Fathers Day ~Start of Summer (Summer Solstice) 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Greg Yashnyk	21 ~Int'l Yoga Day ~Nat'l Selfie Day	22 ~Nat'l Onion Ring Day ~World Rainforest Day	23 ~Let It Go Day ~Nat'l Pink Day	24 ~Swim a Lap Day ~Nat'l Handshake Day B'day: Lee Cubie	25 ~Log Cabin Day ~Nat'l Food Truck Day	26 ~Forgiveness Day	
27 ~Nat'l Onion Day ~Sun Glasses Day	28 ~Int'l Body Piercing Day	29 ~Camera Day ~Waffle Iron Day B'day: Annika Kanukel-Wolfe	30 ~Meteor Day	~National Dairy Month ~Candy Month ~National Accordion Awareness Month ~National Adopt a Cat Month ~National Ice Tea Month			



◀ Jun 2021	July 2021					Aug 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
~Cell Phone Courtesy Month ~Nat'l Grilling Month ~Nat'l Hot Dog Month ~Nat'l Ice Cream Month				1 ~Canada Day ~Nat'l Postal Worker Day	2 ~World UFO Day ~I Forgot Day B'day: Mickey Gourley B'day: Ellen Kaiser	3 ~Eat Beans Day ~Compliment Your Mirror Day
4 Independence Day ~Nat'l Country Music Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	5 ~Nat'l Bikini Day ~Work-a-holics Day	6 ~Int'l Kissing Day ~Nat'l Fried Chicken Day	7 ~Chocolate Day ~Nat'l Strawberry Sundae Day	8 ~Body Painting Day ~Nat'l Blueberry Day	9 ~Nat'l Motorcycle Day ~Video Games Day	10 ~Teddy Bear Picnic Day
11 ~Cheer Up the Lonely Day ~World Population Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/refreshments	12 ~Pecan Pie Day ~Different Colored Eyes Day	13 ~Barbershop Music Appreciation Day	14 ~Bastille Day ~Nat' Mac & Cheese Day	15 ~Be a Dork Day ~Cow Appreciation Day	16 ~World Snake Day ~Fresh Spinach Day	17 ~Peach Ice Cream Day
18 ~Nat'l Ice Cream Day ~Nat'l Caviar Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	19 ~Nat'l Daiquiri Day	20 ~Moon Day ~Ugly Truck Day B'day: Katie Beran	21 ~Nat'l Be Someone Day ~Nat'l Junk Food Day B'day: Ryan Rupp	22 ~Hammock Day	23 ~Vanilla Ice Cream Day	24 ~Cousins Day ~Tell an Old Joke Day
25 ~Parents Day ~Nat'l Chili Dog Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	26 ~Aunt & Uncle Day ~All or Nothing Day	27 ~Take Your Houseplants for a Walk Day	28 ~Nat'l Milk Chocolate Day	29 ~Nat'l Lasagna Day	30 ~Int'l Day of Friendship ~Nat'l Cheesecake Day	31 ~Mutt's Day ~Nat'l Avacado Day



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 prevailing 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/HopewellUMCMtVernon) on Saturday or Sunday for a link to the worship service.