

September 2023

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Loving God & Loving Others = worship + missions

I was sitting around this morning thinking of how much God has done in my life because of His great love for me. I was also praying for some inspiration. I was asking God for an idea for a newsletter article. Then a thought came into my head. I know many of you don't think that thoughts enter into my head but they really do. I began to wonder how many people who read our newsletter don't know about God's love? If you don't know it already God Loves You!

The Bible says, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life"

The problem is that . . . All of us have done, said or thought things that are wrong. This is called sin, and our sins have separated us from God.

The Bible says "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." God is perfect and holy, and our sins separate us from God forever. The Bible says "The wages of sin is death."

There is Good News though. The good news is that, about 2,000 years ago, God sent His only Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins.

Jesus is the Son of God. He lived a sinless life and then died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. "God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

Jesus rose from the dead and now He lives in heaven with God His Father. He offers us the gift of eternal life - of living forever with Him in heaven if we accept Him as our Lord and Savior. Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by Me."

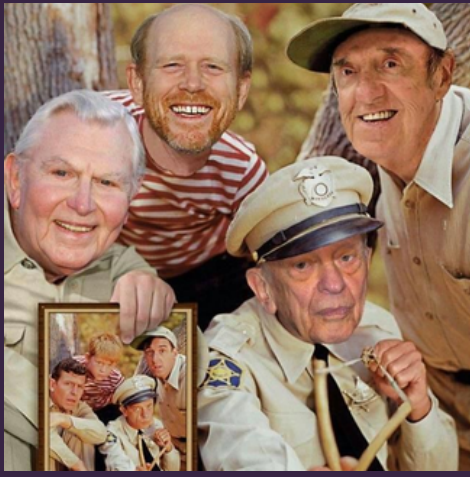
God reaches out in love to you and wants you to be His child. "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe on His name." You can choose to ask Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and come in to your life as your Lord and Savior.

If you want to accept Christ as your Savior and turn from your sins, you can ask Him to be your Savior and Lord by praying a prayer like this:

"Holy Savior Jesus Christ, I believe You are the Son of God. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. I thank You for this wonderful gift and pray that You would forgive my sins and give me the wonderful free gift of eternal life. I pray today that You will be in my life and heart as my Lord and Savior. I wish to serve You and You alone. Amen"

God Bless,
Pastor Joe



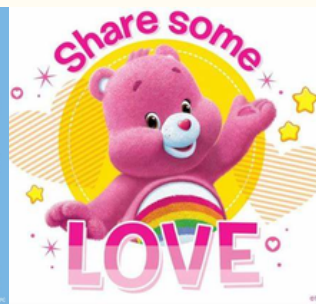
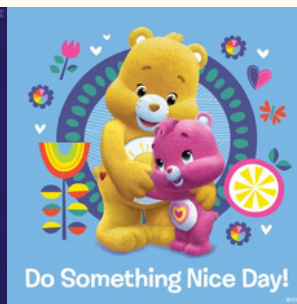


BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR JOE

For generations, stories have been used to teach universal truths. In keeping with this time-honored tradition, "Andy Griffith Bible Study Series" has been developed, which uses the classic stories of Mayberry to illustrate biblical truths.

Pastor Joe will start the "Andy Griffith Bible Study" on Monday, **September 18th at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall at Virginia UMC. This study will continue every Monday with the last study on October 23rd.

Each day
is a gift
to be
opened
with Prayer.



HISTORY OF CARE BEARS SHARE YOUR CARE DAY

Care Bears has been teaching children of all ages about sharing their feelings and caring for others for over 35 years. Those Characters From Cleveland (TCFC), the licensing subsidiary of the greeting card firm American Greetings, invented the Care Bears in 1981. In February 1981, Jack Chojnacki, co-president of TCFC, unveiled the first Care Bear to businessmen from American Greeting Cards and the toy firm Kenner. The Care Bears toy line was first offered to loving enthusiasts worldwide in 1983. They've been in the hearts and imaginations of fans ever since.

Care Bears Share Your Care Day promotes love, caring, and sharing with others. It encourages charity, donating, volunteering, kindness, and acts of benevolence. In 2015, Care Bears, in collaboration with 10-year-old philanthropist Zach Kaplan and with the support of Leake & Watts, delivered 400 Care Bears plush toys to youngsters in New York City on the occasion of the inaugural celebration.

They also collaborated with around 300 bloggers known as Care Bears #ShareYourCare Ambassadors, who pledged to "spread the word, pay it forward, and keep the dialogue going to their own enormous audiences." It just so happens that the holiday falls on the same day as National Teddy Bear Day.

Care Bears Share Your Care Day has a heart and is all about love, caring, and sharing with others. Care Bears also donate to charities throughout the world, assisting needy families. They bring hope and care to others through organizations such as We Care Bears, United Way, Operation Smile, and many more.

Care Bears Share Your Care Day is observed annually on September 9 to motivate significant giving and volunteerism. Care Bears are on a mission to spread caring, sharing, love, friendship, acceptance, fun, and happiness all over the world, and they inspire people to do the same daily! Tenderheart Bear, Harmony Bear, Share Bear, Cheer Bear, and Grumpy Bear, among many others, are all unique Care Bears, and each one has a specialized belly badge that indicates his or her duty and personality. They reside in Care-a-Lot, a faraway place in the clouds that is part of the Kingdom of Caring.



Luke 13:20-21: Again he said, “To what can I compare God’s kingdom? It’s like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through the whole.”

Journal of John Wesley: I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that, in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation. This is the work which I know God has called me to; and I am sure that His blessing attends it. Great encouragement have I, therefore, to be faithful in fulfilling the work He hath given me to do. His servant I am, and, as such, am employed according to the plain direction of His Word, ‘As I have opportunity, doing good unto all men’; and His providence clearly concurs with his Word; which has disengaged me from all things else, that I might singly attend on this very thing, ‘and go about doing good.’

One of the markers of the early Methodist societies was their outreach to their communities and to the world. The first Methodist society meetinghouse in Bristol, England—known as the New Room— did not have pews fixed to the floor. Instead, the seats were removable, so that the room could be used for educating children or offering food and home remedies to the community. John Wesley modeled much of this for the early Methodists. In addition to publishing sermons and religious treatises, he also assembled a book of home remedies called *Primitive Physick* (his best seller during his lifetime).

Read Luke 13:18-21: It is remarkable how much Jesus is able to teach in these brief parables/analogies.

- In the verses 18-19, Jesus compares God’s kingdom to a mustard seed that grows into a tree. Who might the “birds in the sky” be referencing?
- Note that the mustard tree provides a home for the birds. How does Jesus call us to provide a home for those around us? In addition to a physical home, how can we provide a sense of home to others?
- In the second part of this passage, Jesus uses the metaphor of yeast to teach about God’s kingdom. What is the significance of yeast? What do you make of the idea that the yeast works “its way through the whole”? What might it mean for your community to have members of your church work their way into the whole? What differences might it make for your community? What difference might it make in your spiritual life?
- What needs are present in your community? How are you and your church fulfilling those needs?

Wesley was a priest of the Church of England, where clergy were assigned a parish. Serving as a fellow at Lincoln College, Oxford, Wesley worked outside of that system.

- What did Wesley mean by “I look upon all the world as my parish”?
- Wesley writes about his work as two-fold: (1) to declare to and (2) do good for all people. How does this echo what Jesus calls us to do? How is Wesley participating in God’s kingdom?
- How are you yeast to the people around you? How will you be a world-changing person of God? Where is God calling you to bring change? Work? Family? Neighborhood?



Since we have met you, Lord Jesus, our lives have completely changed. Grant us the wisdom to introduce that life-change to others, both through what we say and how we serve. May we be yeast to our community, and part of a global denomination that is changing the world. By your grace, we pray. Amen.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our Charge Conference will be held at the Wesley Chapel on Sunday, October 15th at 4:30 p.m.

OUR STAFF AND SERVICES AT A GLANCE

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10:50 AM Fairview Worship Service

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