

A Message from The Pastor



May is a really busy month! In our lives, we may have graduations, Mother's Day celebrations, planting our flowers, Memorial Day picnics, and other warmer weather events. In the church, we have Annual Conference at the end of the month, the 27th – 29th. That is the annual meeting of equal numbers of clergy and lay people from the churches in our area during which we do the business of and set the direction of our churches. We will also be celebrating Pentecost on May 24th, our annual celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's followers. We will be talking more about the sale of our parsonage with a meeting on the 17th. We will be celebrating the UMC's historical stand against injustice on Peace with Justice Sunday on May 31st. John Wesley, the founder of our denomination, considered social justice to be vitally important. Jesus showed mercy for the marginalized, the outcast, and the poor, and we are called to do the same. In fact, people who are in power, those who have more than they need, those who consider the poor and needy to be inferior, those who oppress and cheat were the ones Jesus spoke against, over and over. As United Methodists, we uphold the value of peace with justice, both to honor our heritage and also to live out our faith as Christ followers. To understand peace with justice, you could read Luke 1: 46-55, the Magnificat. If you want to learn more about our United Methodist beliefs of peace with justice, you can start with the information about this special Sunday at <https://www.umcjustice.org/> or check out our UMC constitution in the Book of Discipline. Ask me if you want to know more about the Book of Discipline and you can read the most recent amendments at <https://www.umc.org/en/content/book-of-discipline-division-1-general> . As we find joy in the warmth and beauty of the green and blooms of May, we strive to bring joy into the lives of those struggling. May God bless us in our celebrations and in our challenges as we do the work of God's kingdom to which we are called. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Margery