



Courier

Weaverville UMC

February, 2017

From the Pastor: Simplicity is the greatest manifestation of love.

Jesus said the two most important things we must dare to do are “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37, 39) Keep it simple. There is a craving in my soul this year for simplicity after returning from Spiritual Direction training at Haden Institute in Hendersonville, NC. It reminds me of Rev. Adam Hamilton’s book, “Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity,” pastor of United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

Simplicity



This weekend I went to Costco for the first time. People were waiting to get in and get out. I was struck by the fact that we live a very complex, a fast paced life delivering too little and demanding too much. In this fast paced world, we overlook what’s important: a relationship with God, relationships, and ourselves. To fill that void, we attempt to fill it with stuff. In the end, there's a key question: is it possible to break free from the high speed, high pressure, high demand, and guilt-producing disease of our lives?

Discovering what is needed to enjoy Spiritual Simplicity in today's fast paced lifestyles is a challenge. It’s not easy to get trapped. But, I believe there is a longing deep within our hearts, to be connected with the Creator of the universe. We need to know there is grace and mercy when we fail, hope in the face of despair, and unconditional love by One who knows us better than we know ourselves. We need to focus on things that bring lasting satisfaction and contentment: simplicity.

Contentment and simplicity go hand in hand and cultivating simplicity is the goal. Simplicity says less is more. Simplicity says we do not need so much clutter in our lives. No doubt, simplicity creates questions. Asking questions can help us identify significant changes that will simplify our lives, give us more contentment, and more money to spend on what’s important. John Wesley said it this way concerning the use of money: “Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can.”

Choosing simplicity brings balance into our lives. It doesn’t mean we stop buying things or move into smaller homes. Rather, it means we look to God as our Source, giving thanks for what we have. It means we ask God to give us the right perspective on our money and our possessions. It means we decide to live simpler lives, wasting less and conserving more. And it means we give more generously because we love God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Simplicity is the greatest manifestation of love.

Roger

The M&M's (Mature & Methodist) next event will be Thursday, February 16th, at noon in the fellowship center. The menu will include delicious soups by Carole Penell, Janet Foor and Karen Jones, salad and dessert by Fran Durden and bread provided by Bob and Lorraine Cipriano. The cost is only \$5 each. Then, right after lunch, LET'S PLAY BINGO! Please sign up by calling 484-8680, or at mandmlunch@frontier.com.



UMW Circles

The Minevia Brittain Circle will be meeting Wednesday, March 8th, at The Twisted Laurel, 6:45pm.

The Grace Waugh Circle will meet Thursday, February 16th, in the conference room in the fellowship center at 10:30am. We invite visitors and prospective new members to attend and find out what we are all about. Our program will be announced in the church bulletin the week of our meeting. Most will attend the M&M luncheon at noon the same day.

Usher Volunteers

We are starting to use the Signup Genius website to allow different options for usher volunteering. Anyone can sign up, regardless of age or gender, for any week or weeks throughout the year and as often as they would want to. Please feel free to visit the website below to start signing up. If there are any special dates where your group will (i.e. Scouts, Women's Sunday, Youth Sunday) have special ushers, please let me know the date and I will reserve it immediately. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044aa4af2fa7f94-1100am>. I can be contacted at jeffspennell@frontier.com or 828-768-5042.

It's a new year for the children's ministry at WUMC! We have lots of exciting things happening, including our annual pancake supper! This will take place on Saturday, February 25th, in the Fellowship Center. The kids will be serving all you can eat, made to order pancakes from 4:30-6:30pm...Mardi Gras style!! We are also bringing back our children's choir, beginning Sunday, February 12th at 4:00pm. We will meet every other Sunday in the old fellowship hall. Don't forget to visit our signup website to see all of the opportunities for volunteering in our children and youth ministries! Please be praying about how you can help with our 2017 VBS, whether it is being a leader, helping with preparations, or being a prayer warrior! <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4aa9a728aafe3-vacation>



Important Dates:

- 2/12: Children's Choir, 4pm
- 2/25: Pancake Supper, 4:30-6:30pm
- 2/26: Children's Choir, 4pm
- 6/12-16: Vacation School!!! 4Years-Rising 4th grade

Thank you all for your continued support! Courtney

Thanks to all of you who submitted your Stewardship Commitment forms at the end of last year. I have compiled the database of volunteers, and already forwarded it to the committee chairmen for whom I had email addresses. If you are a committee chairman, or leader of a major church activity, and would like to know who volunteered to serve with you, but did not receive an email from me, please contact me at 58ricker@gmail.com, and let me know what group or activity you are representing. I will forward you a list of members who want to help in that area.



Rick Broadhurst

Birthdays—Feb 2017

2/1	Gretchen Harnden	2/15	Bob Foor	2/21	Gary Morton
2/1	Roney Hilliard	2/16	Kim Mallicoat	2/21	Kristen Redmond
2/3	Barbara Scott	2/16	Dan Moffitt	2/21	Seth Redmond
2/4	Roger Cordell	2/17	Barbara Moffitt	2/24	Veronica Blasingame
2/6	Janice Garland	2/17	Tiff Jones	2/24	John Dankel
2/8	Deborah Johnson	2/17	Jim Mayo	2/24	Mary Ann Fieffer
2/7	Kayla Tipton	2/17	Ann Bass	2/24	Joni Lisenbee
2/8	Sharon Rice	2/18	Ellen Litton	2/25	Rosemary Treadway
2/11	Denise Wilfong	2/18	Jim Litton	2/27	Roger Weisner
2/11	Vickie Davis	2/19	Bill Bass	2/27	Cody Cheek
		2/20	Cindy Farthing		



Almost Christian—Between planning youth events, the lock-in, and confirmation, I’ve been spending the past month thumbing through a book entitled “*Almost Christian*,” written by United Methodist Elder, Kenda Dean. She is a professor of Youth, Church, and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary, and in this book she discusses recent statistics about the spiritual lives of young people given by the National Study of Youth and Religion. This study shows that while a sizable percentage of teenagers attend church, just 8% of teens surveyed displayed a spirituality that holds a central place in their lives: what she defines as a “consequential faith.” This study shows there is a large percentage of students that fall into a category of “nominally religious,” meaning they don’t have a problem with Jesus, they don’t have a problem with Church, they simply have a hard time seeing their faith as something more than instruction in what it means to “be good.” My goal here at Weaverville UMC is to help foster lasting and transformative faith in the lives of our students. How is this goal achievable when it seems we live in a culture where 92% of youth who’s identity as professing Christians, are nominally religious? Rev. Dean proposes a few solutions for this problem, a few of which I’d like to highlight:



(1) Adult Role Models: A charismatic pastor or a likable youth minister can only go so far in the faith development of our youth. Lasting, or consequential faith development has been shown to occur when students are surrounded with adults who take their own spiritual lives seriously, working out their own salvation with fear and trembling, and show a genuine concern for the lives of the youth.

(2) The Missional Imagination: Lasting faith is cultivated when we see our relationship with God as more than a “one on one” relationship. Jesus calls us to be his disciples in the world, loving our neighbors as ourselves. The missional imagination allows us to experience our faith as not only transformative to ourselves, but to the world.

(3) Four Essentials of Faith: Kenda found that a “consequential faith” is accompanied by four essential elements; first, the ability to articulate a belief in a God that is both personal and powerful. Personal insofar as one who cares for the soul of each person, and powerful as the transcendent creator of life. Second, consequential faith develops when students have a community to belong to, and identify with. Third, a consequential faith is to be able to articulate a call to which students must live out as their vocation to the world. This gives their life direction and meaning, and provides them with a personal sense of identity. Lastly, a consequential faith is attached to “hope,” the idea their life is caught up in something larger than their own, and is “going somewhere” because it is attached to God’s plan for the world.

Cultivating a transformative faith in our youth is not something that occurs overnight, nor by the hands of a few dedicated volunteers. What on the surface seems to be a problem with youth culture, according to Rev. Dean, is actually the church’s problem. Developing a consequential - or a lasting and transformative - faith requires teamwork as we work together to grow in our relationship with Christ, to be His disciples in the world, and show vested interest in the lives of our young people. Weaverville UMC is blessed to have a group of young people who take their faith seriously, who ask challenging questions, and who model the life of Christ to their peers. They have much to teach us, and I am amazed by their witness to the world.

Jeremy Morris, Youth Pastor

WUMC Finances—January, 2017

	<u>January Actual</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offerings	\$25,553.78	\$25,553.78
Expenses	<u>\$32,940.14</u>	<u>\$32,940.14</u>
Difference	\$-7,386.36	\$-7,386.36

Respectfully submitted,

The WUMC Finance Committee

Weaverville UMC

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Serving God by Serving Others.

February Dates/Times to Remember!



2/5—M Brittain SB Food Sale—Noon

2/5—Finance Committee Meeting—Noon

2/7—SPRC Meeting—6pm

2/8—Confirmation Class—5pm

2/12—Scout Sunday—11am

2/12—Children's Choir Rehearsal—4pm

2/16—M&M Luncheon—Noon

2/19—Youth Chili Fundraiser—Noon

2/20—Trustees Meeting—7pm

2/25—Children's Pancake Dinner Fundraiser—4:30pm

2/26—Church Council Meeting—Noon

