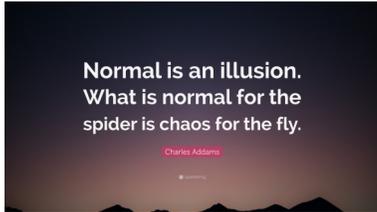


A QUESTION OF NORMAL

Well, it seems that the terrible grip of the COVID pandemic is lessening. News and social media are using the phrase, “back to normal.” As mentioned numerous times throughout this past year and a half, what we believe normal to mean, or to be, will never happen. Perhaps there is a “new normal,” as has been proposed. I question ever using the word “normal” again. It’s not the same for any entity. The



meaning of the condition of “normal,” as well as the meaning of the word itself, whether for an individual, a nation, or a community, is in a constant

state of flux. Eliminate it! If someone says or does something you don’t believe is right, call them out and, hopefully, discuss it. If our leaders are doing the same, contact them with your feelings. When someone goes above and beyond, praise them. If someone says or does something unacceptable, condemn it. To label anything as “normal” or “abnormal” is only understood by one’s own understanding of the word or situation. “Normal” is not what we hope to gain from the COVID experience. It’s knowledge and it’s for next month.

Mike DeBenedetto, Lay Servant

ReTURN TO WORSHIP UPDATE

As more and more of the surrounding population is vaccinated, and the COVID numbers continue to improve, we will be making the following changes over the next few weeks:

- **Effective June 6th**—We will be returning to two services on Sunday, 8:30 and 10:00 am. Also, the online reservation process will no longer be required.
- **Effective June 13th**—We will change to **face masks optional** for all people who have been fully vaccinated. Masks are still required if you have not been vaccinated, and all members who choose to wear masks as their own personal preference are encouraged to do so. This policy is in line with **CDC Guidelines** and has been reflected in many local area businesses.

JUSTICE WITH PEACE SUNDAY

June 20th—When you support **Peace with Justice Sunday**, your gift becomes a voice for advocacy around the world. Together we strengthen God’s family with ministries that challenge structures of inequality and empower people and communities

JUSTICE WITH PEACE, continued

through systematic change. For example, in Washington, DC, Peace with Justice funds support **Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church’s Community Anti-violence Project (C.A.P.)**. Hughes UMC joined with **Howard University School of Law** to begin an after-school program to help at-risk children and youth who live in the community surrounding the church. “It is unfair and unrealistic to expect impoverished children who are hungry, cold and scared to excel in school.” The after-school program seeks to help the children who live near the church to dream big dreams and to achieve their dreams by preparing them holistically— physically,



mentally, emotionally and intellectually. Students participating in the **Community Anti-violence Project** have shown improved reading scores and other advancements. **Rev. Paul Johnson** is convinced that “in our community there is no peace because there is no justice, and there is no justice because there is no peace.” C.A.P. is committed to peace with justice. If you would like to support this effort, please bring your offering to the church on June 20th—a check made out to the church and designated to PWJS, or you can simply designate an additional online gift to PWJS. Thank you!

Generosity
changes everything

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

TeKeesha Fisher is our new Administrative Assistant. TeKeesha, TK for short, started the week of May 17th. TeKeesha, her husband, and two daughters are a former military family who currently reside in Round Lake Beach. TeKeesha comes highly recommended to this position. Please introduce yourself to TeKeesha next time you are in the office.



Special thanks to all who helped in the interviewing and hiring process. UMCA is blessed by your help.

WELCOME NEW STAFF, continued

Christina Rasmussen started as our new custodian on May 3rd. When we interviewed Christina we found her experience and personality a perfect fit. *Rich* is Christina's husband, and he enjoys coming along to help sometimes. Please welcome them both when you meet.



Staff-Parish

MISSIONS

PADS

Wow! The picture really shows how full the Tahoe was after the May collection.



Let's focus on dinner items for this coming month's drive, which will be announced on Sunday, June 20th, and June 27th will be our collection target. See below for some suggestions. Please remember, nothing that needs refrigeration and pop tops on the cans/bowls.

- Soup or noodle cups
- Mac & Cheese cups
- *Banquet* dinners
- *Spaghettios*
- Stew, chili, etc.
- Water
- Gift cards for fast food chains



Please call the church office 847/395-1259 or call/email *Carol Cichonski* at 847/265-1214/ccichonksi@comcast.net with requests for donation pick-ups, if you are not able to bring your donation to the church.

Carol Cichonski

MISSIONS, continued

Epiphany in July

Due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to worship in our sanctuary for Epiphany Sunday in January. This year, we will be celebrating Epiphany on July 11th instead. To commemorate the day that we celebrate the *Wise Men* bringing gifts to baby Jesus, we will also be bringing gifts to honor baby Jesus. Please consider bringing especially needed baby diapers, wipes, and diaper rash creams/ointments, which will be donated to *Open Arms Missions* to assist local families in need. Especially needed are diapers in sizes 5 and 6 (the larger sizes). Your contributions will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for any help you are able to give.



Carleen Wurster

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ANTIOCH PRESCHOOL

The preschool had a very short year this year, but we are very grateful that we had the opportunity to reopen. We are currently accepting registration for all classes in the fall. We are also considering a *Back on Track Summer Camp* for three through seven year olds. If you know of anyone who is interested please have them contact *Kim* at 847/395-1362 or umcapreschool316@gmail.com.

The preschool staff would like to thank everyone that ordered *Butterbraids*. The fundraiser was very successful. We could not have done it without your support. Thank you.



Collaborative art project

Kim Dodd, Director

WESLEY AFTERNOON CIRCLE

Our group will have its end-of-year meeting at *Culver's* in Antioch at 2:00 pm on Thursday, June 17th. Anyone needing a ride, please contact *Anne Dickson* at 224/818-8725.



Ann Dickson

CHRISTIAN WELLNESS MINISTRY

Things are finally starting to get back to normal! However, we are all being cautious until we get to herd immunity (70% COVID-19 vaccinated). Please know that CWM is coming back in September. We are anxious to begin serving our church families again! *Telecare* has never stopped calling seniors. Thank you calling members for all that you do! We will begin letting you know the dates that each of our ministries plans to re-start as we near September.



We are anxious to begin serving our church families again! *Telecare* has never stopped calling seniors. Thank you calling members for all that you do! We will begin letting you know the dates that each of our ministries plans to re-start as we near September.

In the meantime, we are looking for a leader for *Wellness Walks*. Wellness Walks take place from May through October when the weather cooperates. The walks are led on Thursday mornings once a week in our local forest preserves and range from one to one and a half miles. It's a great way to start the day in the calmness and peace of the forest. If you are interested, please call me at 630/399-0089.



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the CWM leaders!

Carol Frazier, RN, Christian Wellness Chair

IN THE GARDEN

Thanks to all of you who helped at our garden party on May 15th! We worked mostly on the back area gardens by the entrances and along the fence. Thanks also to those who helped plant or contributed financially toward the new flower pots on the south side of the church. The Trustees are considering a bid for mulching the church and parsonage garden areas, which will cut down on weeding and help retain moisture for our plantings. Please bring your gardening tools and join us on Saturday, June 19th at 9:00 for our next garden party. We work until about 11:00, depending on how many people come. It's not an all day commitment. Gardening in fellowship grows friends and flowers!



Heidi Gilday



PENTECOST IN THE SANCTUARY



MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Northern Illinois Conference Fill the Truck Mission Challenge: May 15th—July 1st

Help us reach and beat the Conference goals—6,000 pounds and \$1000! TOP NEEDS:

Personal Dignity Kit

- Toothpaste, wash clothes, hand towels

Layette Kit

- Onesies, \$2.00 for diaper cream, cloth diapers (instructions on website), receiving blankets

Homecare Kit

- Liquid laundry detergent, dish soap, liquid household cleaner (no sprays)

Student Kit

- Box 12 colored pencils, rulers

Cloth face mask

- Cotton or tightly woven wool or viscose rayon; also rope elastic or ribbon

Flannel fabric

- By the yard, no camouflage, foot prints, or paw prints

Donate full or partial kits. If you want to assemble full kits, see the website under “Kits, Projects, and Patterns,” www.midwestmission.org.

Bring donations to church. If you have questions contact **Carol Dunn**, 262/221-7986 or CDunn214@wi.rr.com

Carol Dunn

JOHN WESLEY AS LEADER

From *Marks of a Movement*, by **Winfield Bevins**:

John Wesley was a master organizational leader; “the day for John Wesley’s strategic wisdom is not over, for many of his principles have perennial validity. As Wesley the ‘strategic genius’ is rediscovered, he will become one of the strategic fountainheads of the Christian movement facing the 21st century.” (**George Hunter**)

Hallmarks of Wesley’s leadership genius

1. Model the Way Through Your Own Leadership.

One reason Wesley had such a lasting impact on his followers is that he embodied what he taught and called others to—a radical commitment to Christ and the Methodist cause. He modeled this by his lifestyle, which matched his preaching. He was a true leader of the people, traveling thousands of miles on horseback, preaching to and teaching the masses, yet still finding time to regularly meet

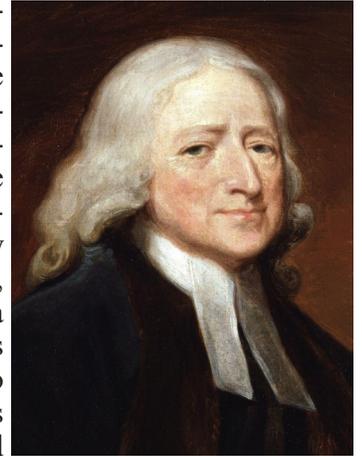


WESLEY, continued

with leaders across the country. They saw how he lived out his faith in the real world. For Wesley, there was no distinction between a private and a public faith. He walked with his leaders, he prayed with them, he fed the poor among them. He lived the life he sought to reproduce in others.

2. Begin to Develop a Leadership Pipeline.

A leadership pipeline is an intentional system or structure that trains and equips people to become leaders. Wesley developed his leadership pipeline beginning with an individual attending class meetings and gradually progressing to the highest levels of leadership in the Methodist movement. The class meeting was where it all began, as that was where an individual’s gifts were identified and began to be used in ministry to others. If a person was faithful to serve others in the class meeting, they continued on their way through the pipeline, eventually becoming a leader of their own class meeting. Wesley also appointed indigenous leaders who were raised



up in local community. Who better to minister over a class meeting than a member of that community?

3. Empower Others According to their Gifts.

Wesley knew that everyone has different gifts, and that such gifts have been given for different works of ministry. He would ask of those who came to him, wanting to preach, “Have they the gifts (as well as the grace) for the work?” Upon reflection and after consulting with others, he sought to assign leaders to serve according to their giftedness. The Methodist structure was designed to allow people with different gifts to use those gifts at the appropriate place in the organization.

4. Understand the Need to Provide Ongoing Support.

Wesley never appointed people to a task without providing some type of ongoing support and supervision. He supervised his leaders and created structures for them to report on the state of their faith and their ministries. He also provided opportunities for local preachers and leaders to meet together and encourage one another.

Bevins, Winfield. *Marks of the Movement: What the Church Today Can Learn From the Wesleyan Revival*. Zondervan, 2017

The United Methodist Church of Antioch
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Antioch, IL 60002
Office: 847/395-1259
Pastor: Rev. Katie Voigt
Office Email: umc.antioch@att.net
Website: umcantioch.org
Like us on Facebook:
United Methodist Church of Antioch

Please join us in person or online for worship. Starting in June our in person worship schedule is 8:30 am & 10:00 am. The link for the recorded service can be found on our website at umcantioch.org. The information is also shared on our Facebook page. We continue to follow COVID protocol and evaluate as needed.

[Jesus said] “the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”

John 14: 26

The Holy Spirit embodies the life force of the universe, the power of God, the animating energy present in all things and captured by none. Therefore we pray:

May the gifts of the Holy Spirit bring fire to the earth so that the presence of God may be seen in a new light, in new places, in new ways. May our own hearts burst into flame so that no obstacle, no matter how great, ever obstructs the message of God within each of us. May we come to trust the Word of God in our heart, to speak it with courage, to follow it faithfully and to fan it to flame in others. May the Jesus who filled [all kinds of people] with his Holy Spirit fill the world and the church with new respect for [all people’s value], power, and presence.

Give us, Great God, a sense of the Breath of Spirit within us as we pray for our church, our community, our Christian Education department, and ... *(State the goal in your own life at this time for which you are praying.)* —**Sister Joan Chittister**