

JESUS FOLLOWING

MARK 1:17

NEWS, VIEWS, & GOSPEL TRUTHS

EAST NAPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | OCTOBER 2020

The Scandalous Behavior of Jesus

In his book, *Messy Spirituality*, the late Michael Yocaneli states, "According to the New Testament, Jesus is attracted to the unattracted. He prefers the lost ones over the found ones, the losers over the winners, the broken instead of the whole, the messy instead of the unmessy, and the crippled instead of the noncrippled." There are those who would hear these words from Yocaneli and would become very offended; offended because Yocaneli's depiction of Jesus can create a certain level of discomfort. The discomfort arises because many of us have spent many years on this Christian journey trying to be "right." We've tried to live right, talk right, look right, and act right. We've tried to live a righteous life in an attempt to guarantee a fruitful and productive relationship with God. In doing so we believe that our behavior and actions will secure us a place in heaven.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Honestly, and to be brutally frank, who wants to accept that Jesus has an affinity for people we are so desperately trying to avoid? Yocaneli reminds us that the people we try to avoid are the very people that Jesus has a tendency to gravitate toward, and for many this is scandalous! Why would Jesus associate with those on the underside of history? Why would Jesus socialize with those who are most ostracized? Why would Jesus develop friendships with those who are considered undesirable? The answer can be found in Matthew 9:12. In that verse Jesus declares, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." It is as if Jesus is saying, "Those who don't think they need healing don't need me, but those who are acutely aware of their woundedness need the healing I possess."

The truth of the matter is that Jesus' propensity to relate to the lost and the left-out can only be offensive and scandalous to those who feel they have it all together. But if you are like me, then you are extremely conscious of your flaws and your shortcomings. It is this recognition that also helps us to realize that we are in need of healing; the kind of healing that Jesus offers. In other words, Jesus' scandalous behavior is what makes your wholeness possible. Can I get an Amen!

*Peace,
Pastor Craig*

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

As we continue our journey with Christ in this world, I would like to encourage you to keep drawing strength from the Lord. It is possible to find ourselves weary due to circumstances we are facing, but the Scriptures promise us that “...**those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.**” (Isaiah 40:31, NLT). Jesus said “**Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.**” (Matthew 11:28, NLT). As we continue on our journey, may we remember that ultimately, our peace comes from walking with our God, Who is the Prince of peace.

I would like to invite everyone to join us on our Zoom Bible study each Wednesday at 6pm. We are now discussing the importance of community for our spiritual nourishment. During these days of isolation, it is especially important for us to take advantage of opportunities to gather with other Christians for fellowship. Our Zoom gathering provides such opportunity and I look forward to having more of you join us! If anyone needs help connecting with our Zoom meeting, please feel free to call me or email me (information below). I would be more than happy to help.

Warmly in Christ,
Pastor Edwin
239.774.4696
family@enaples.org

Thou wilt keep
him in perfect
peace, whose
mind is stayed
on thee:
because he
trusteth in
thee.
– Isaiah 26:3



The Day

Author, Unknown

Submitted by Pat Poorman

" Barely the day started and... it's already six
in the evening.
Barely arrived on Monday and it's already
Friday.
... and the month is already over.
... and the year is almost over.
... and already 40, 50 or 60 years of our lives
have passed.
... and we realize that we lost our parents,
friends.
and we realize it's too late to go back...
So... Let's try, despite everything, to enjoy
the remaining time...
Let's keep looking for activities that we
like...
Let's put some color in our grey...
Let's smile at the little things in life that put
balm in our hearts.
And despite everything, we must continue
to enjoy with serenity this time we have left.
Let's try to eliminate the afters...
I'm doing it after...
I'll say after...
I'll think about it after...
We leave everything for later like " after " is
ours.
Because what we don't understand is that:
Afterwards, the coffee gets cold...
Afterwards, priorities change...
Afterwards, the charm is broken...
Afterwards, health passes...
Afterwards, the kids grow up...
Afterwards parents get old...
Afterwards, promises are forgotten...
afterwards, the day becomes the night...
Afterwards life ends...
And then it's often too late...
So... Let's leave nothing for later...
Because still waiting see you later, we can
lose the best moments,
the best experiences,
best friends,
the best family...
The day is today... The moment is now..."

Carpe Diem!

*Gather ye rosebuds while ye may, Old Time is still a-flying;
And this same flower that smiles today, Tomorrow will be dying.*

Carpe Diem. The incredible Robin Williams introduced me to the phrase. In the movie *Dead Poets Society*, William's character plays a professor-gone-rogue who urges his students to *Carpe Diem* or *Seize the Day*. The scene begins with Williams asking one of his students to read the first stanza in their hymnal. The stanza in question is a poem by Robert Herrick entitled *To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time*.

Williams asks the students why they thought the writer used the lines "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may..." One student replied, "Because he is in a hurry." Williams counters and said. "Because we are food for worms lads!"

What do you think reader? Are you inclined to agree that a *Seize the Day* mentality means one is in a hurry— impatient, or do you think we should make the most of all that we are blessed with?

As Christians we are taught to have faith, to trust in God, to make our desires known to Him, to not be anxious for tomorrow. We are encouraged to write our visions and to bring our plans before God; to wait on Him to lead and guide our way. These are great instructions from the Bible. However, some of us follow so well we become paralyzed in a waiting position.

What is that thing you have wanted to do for so long but keep putting off? How fulfilled/satisfied are you with the life you are presently living? Are you stuck in the same rut and experience the same unfulfilling outcomes over and over again? ***Are you truly living or are you just existing?***

Taking risks and walking out our faith help move us forward toward the fulfillment of purpose. "Faith without works is dead." In the Bible, miracles occurred when some sort of action was taken by the one seeking it.

Years ago, in a coaching program, I came across a young lady who was unhappily working towards an accounting degree because it was what her father wanted. By the end of the program, she had made the brave decision to give it all up to pursue her own dream which was photography. I applauded her then and applaud any of you who have dared to say, "I want more, I want something different," and who, like this young lady, have the gumption to take the first step.

It takes courage to fully examine one's life—courage because the truth can be hard to accept. But it takes an act of bravery to make a radical shift from the status quo to doing something completely new—different.

In this season of transitions, of change, and the stark reality that something new is needed, it does take a radical shift and inner strength to go against the natural grain to do something different.

Your answers and solutions are attached to that change. Remember Moses at the burning bush? Why do you think God asked him to *Turn Aside*? Could it be that God wanted him to see things from a new perspective. Today, Will you turn aside, change your perspective, and seize the day?

The key to the change you have been praying for is your mindset (your self-talk; your thoughts; your programmed actions, reactions, behaviors; your attitude).

If we have gleaned any wisdom from the catastrophic events of 2020, it should be the reminder that tomorrow is not promised to us. What are you waiting for? Go ahead, *Carpe Diem!*

CDGOLD

LEARNING CENTER HAPPENINGS

WOW! Our new school year is off to a fabulous start. Praise God! We have been in school for two months now, and the children and teachers couldn't be happier to see each other. The Learning Centers offers FREE VPK Program for all children who turn 4 years of age by September 1st. The Learning Center Preschool is open year round serving children in our community from ages 1-4. Each week at The Learning Center children are taught a new Bible lesson and verse, weekly themes, their colors, shapes, letters, math, science, sight words, character development, chapel, pledges and much more. Do you know a family member, friend or business associate looking for high quality child care? Then The Learning Center Preschool is for them. Please have them give the preschool office a call (239-775-0745) to set up a tour. As always we thank you for your prayers, support, and referrals. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" Matthew 19:14.

Michele Micieli
Director

The Learning Center Preschool
239-775-0745



ENUMC, thanks Michele and all the teachers of The Learning Center for going above and beyond to ensure this vital ministry stays alive and continues to be a safe haven for the kids.



John Keats

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?

Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find

Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,

Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;

Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,

Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook

Spare the next swath and all its twined flowers:

And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep

Steady thy laden head across a brook;

Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,

Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?

Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—

While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,

And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;

Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn

Among the river shallows, borne aloft

Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;

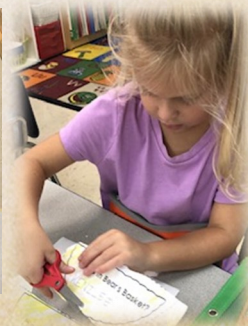
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;

Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft

The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;

And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

In case you needed a reminder that there is still joy in the world, just look at the faces of these angels from TLC.



MISSIONS

For the month of October, we will be collecting support for these two wonderful Methodist agencies. Please help us help others in our state and our nation during these difficult times.



Flood. Fire. Wind. COVID-19.
www.umcmmission.org/umcor

For 80 years, and in this unprecedented time of one disaster after another, UMCOR has been swift to offer relief and is committed to the fullness of recovery.

We can help support the immediate needs of disaster response in the United States. When disasters happen, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR works with the conference disaster response ministries to provide the following:

- Financial assistance - emergency grants may be sent when a bishop of the affected conference contacts UMCOR;
- Expertise - UMCOR's disaster-response experience and knowledge are made available to those in need;
- Networking - connections with volunteers, experts, local government and other organizations can help communities recover from disaster.

Current Disaster Responses in the U.S:

- Hurricanes Sally, Laura, Isaias and Hannah | Derecho Storm in Iowa
- Wildfires in the West
- Flooding, Storms and Tornados



The Fifth Sunday Offering is one of the vital means of support for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Each month that has a fifth Sunday, the United Methodist Churches in the Florida Annual Conference are asked to collect an offering to support the ministry of the Children's Home. When you contribute to this offering, you allow us to carry on the life changing ministry of the Children's Home. **For more information go to: www.fumch.org**



Our food and cash donations during October will go to support the Friday Food Pantry at Grace Place for Children and Families in Golden

Kris Clemmensen
Mission Coordinator

From ENUMC's Hispanic Ministry

Submitted by Zuri Moxam



God is Love. His very essence is LOVE! But how does God reveal His love to all His creation? He does so through His mercy, grace, and patience. At ENUMC Hispanic Ministry, we just concluded a Bible study series in which we learned about both the communicable and incommunicable attributes of the character of God. As His church, it is our prayer that His Holy Spirit may produce His character in each one of us.

Traducción: Dios es amor. ¡Su misma esencia es AMOR! Pero, ¿cómo revela Dios su amor a toda su creación? Lo hace a través de su misericordia, gracia y paciencia. En el Ministerio Hispano de ENUMC acabamos de concluir una serie de estudio Bíblico en la cual aprendimos acerca de los atributos comunicables e incommunicables del carácter de Dios. Es nuestra oración, que el Espíritu Santo pueda producir en cada uno de nosotros el carácter de Dios.

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in mid-September, we celebrate those among us whose heritage ties them to Spain, Spanish speaking Central American nations, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico. These people from many nations and traditions bring a wide range of rich cultural experiences into our churches.

The Hispanic and Latino people have been present in our nation and in our church for generations and their numbers continue to grow. Already the fastest-growing population in the United States, their numbers are projected to double in the next 10 years.

In The United Methodist Church, we celebrate the presence of Hispanic and Latino members among us along with the gifts, service, and witness they bring to our communities of faith. Sometimes we do this by making opportunities for cultural experiences, moments of prayer, or singing together. We celebrate contributions and bridges built while singing the songs we were all created to sing, each voice blending into beautiful harmony reflecting the image of our Creator.

Extracted from flumc.org



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Judy Blake	3-Oct	Polly Perry	15-Oct
Jessica Chronister	5-Oct	Patty Quade	15-Oct
Rauldel Garcia	5-Oct	Ginny Watson	15-Oct
Lourdes Baylina	6-Oct	Dick Pautvein	16-Oct
Devin Oetman	8-Oct	Judy Vogel	16-Oct
Bian Spieth	8-Oct	Lucy Spieth	17-Oct
Sheri Warren	8-Oct	Lily Chronister	18-Oct
Joyce Francisco	9-Oct	Kay Light	18-Oct
Ivia Garcia	9-Oct	Weltha Eastman	22-Oct
Ivy Peden	9-Oct	Bud Lightner	25-Oct
Tom Thompson	9-Oct	Brandon Perez	26-Oct
Kathy Fogler	10-Oct	Arne Nelson	27-Oct
Rosiane Jeune	10-Oct	Romelle Lemley	28-Oct
Mercedes Viera	10-Oct	Bonnie Shields	28-Oct
Deb Nelson	11-Oct	Mitzi Cobb	29-Oct
Corey Angelo	12-Oct	Barb Ray	29-Oct
Judy Klement	12-Oct	Virginia Matthews	30-Oct
Jim Keefer	14-Oct	Pearl Holt	31-Oct

Happy Birthday to a wonderful group of the ENUMC family. We pray your special day will be full of love, joy, and beauty. May God bless and keep you, and give you His grace for another year.



Upcoming Events

Special Events & Reminders

World Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 4

Formation Team Meeting
Sunday, October 11, 10:30 am

Combined Worship Service
Sunday, October 18, 9:30 am

2020 Charge Conference
Sunday, October 18, 3:00 pm

Encounter Youth Gathering
Sunday, October 18, 5:00 pm

<i>Day & Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sunday		
9:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary, Online
10:00 a.m.	Servicio en Español	Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Zoom
Tuesday		
9:00 a.m.	Bargain Nook Open	Bargain Nook
Wednesday		
6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Bible Study	Zoom
7:30 p.m.	Estudio Biblico	Zoom
Thursday		
9:00 a.m.	Bargain Nook Open	Bargain Nook
7:30 p.m.	Grupos Pequeños	Elsley Hall