



A Spot of T

(Get it? 'Cause my last name starts with a 'T'?)



I am very tough on the church.

If you follow me on social media – or pay attention to any of the sermons I preach – you will no doubt already be aware of this.

But, why?

Let me tell you, it isn't because I hate the church. In fact, I love the church. I love the United Methodist Church, even though the things which happen within it can frustrate me. I love the church, even though its modern iteration has seen it forego the headship of Christ for political power. I love the church, even though I've seen it advocate families throw out children and others who are homosexual. I love the church, even though I've seen it persecute a teacher who dared to show teenagers safe sex habits. That teacher also led a group of teenagers in a drug-free task force. She also sat in a pew not too far from me. And yet, they wanted to ruin her life because she saw merit in helping teenagers be safe.

I love the church in spite of these things. I know the church is capable of so much more. I know the church can be a force for great spiritual and societal uplift...but it's going to have to do much better than it has been.

Too much of the church's identity is wrapped up in the political world and its search for political power. Too much of the church's identity is tied to excluding those on the margins of society. When our buildings, types of worship instruments, and our personal agendas are the things which drive us, we've gone astray.

I am tough on the church because I know the church can be better.

I saw this quote: *"The early church had no building, no money, and no political power, and they turned the world upside down."*

Jesus can still turn our world upside down if only we'd get out of his way and let him lead.

Peace,

When God's people find themselves in hot water, they can still be witnesses to grace.

Which Are You? *-Anonymous*

We can easily praise God when we feel blessed or in good condition. However, can we still praise God if we face strife? Can we keep our faith if we do not sense God's help?

These questions reminded me of an illustration. If carrots, eggs, and coffee beans are boiled, the effect on each item will be different.

The carrots will soften, the eggs will harden, and the coffee beans will change the color of the water and spread a delicious aroma.

The boiling water symbolizes problems or pressures in our life. The carrots, eggs, and coffee beans symbolize different human reactions to problems or pressures.

The soft carrots represent people who grumble, complain, and pity themselves when faced with



problems. The hardened eggs represent those

who become stubborn, rebellious, and angry at God during tribulations. But the coffee beans represent people who obey

and trust God, changing the atmosphere around



them while spreading the fragrance of Christ.

God offers to each of us faith greater than any problem we face. The magnitude of the problem is not as important as our reaction to the problem.

Our faith determines how we will respond as we meet the challenges of daily life—as a carrot, a hard-boiled egg, or a coffee bean.

Coming Next Month

Melissa Rice will be leading **“Revelations—A Bible Study”** starting September 10. The gathering will take place in the library

starting at **9 a.m.** and will run for 6- 8 weeks. Readings for the first week are chapters 1-3 of Revelations in your bible. Come prepared

to discuss those chapters at the first bible study. All are welcome to join!



Greatest Giveaway in Town Returns

The annual **Mike's Great Giveaway** will be held on **August 25** from 8 am —12 pm in our fellowship hall.

You may bring in items for the giveaway starting August 6th and store them in the chapel area of the fellowship hall, preferably in the

third classroom.

Please go through your closets and garages to see what is no longer needed and bring them to the church.

We will also need lots of help the week prior to the event as well as on the day of the event.

Please check your calendar and let us know if you can help out.



If you have questions, contact event coordinators, Gloria Binkerd or Beverly Grey.



Congratulations to Ginny Brackenhamer and Mike Rickner on their upcoming marriage — August 11. May your marriage be blessed with true love for many years to come!



F.I.S.H SUNDAY is AUGUST 5th

Please bring in non-perishable food for our local food pantry.

UPCOMING Events

Sept. 3: LABOR DAY .. Church office will be closed.

Sept. 16: Church service at Allen's Pond with carry-in lunch(10am service)

Sept. 30: "Squeaky Clean Sunday"

Serving for August 2018

8am Greeter — Sue Wesco

10am Liturgist — 8/5 & 8/19: Barry Eppley;
8/12 & 8/26: Tammy Allen

10am Greeters

8/5 Grant Long, J.P. & Jan Mattern
8/12 Grant Long, J.P. & Jan Mattern
8/19 Grant Long, J.P. & Jan Mattern
8/26 Grant Long, J.P. & Jan Mattern

10am Ushers — TBD

Scripture Reading for August

8/5 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12;
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

8/12 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130;
Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

8/19 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111;
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

8/26 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43;
Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20;
John 6:56-69

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Services
Sunday 8 am & 10 am
Sunday School for all ages 9 am

Phone: 260.563.3308
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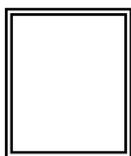


Items for the next newsletter should be submitted to the church office by **August 20th.**

We're on the Web!
wabashchristumc.org



[Check us out on Facebook!](#)



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