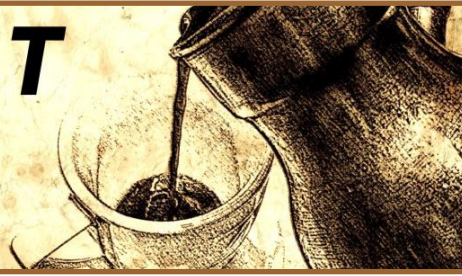




## A Spot of T

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



I'm conflicted at the moment.

First, I really miss being in the pulpit and bringing you the word each Sunday. On the other hand, it has been amazing to be able to be at home with my family these past few weeks – helping with Emily's recovery, plunging so much energy into ensuring Riversong knows she is loved, and bothering Ella with my terrible dad jokes. Again, I just want to say thank you all for stepping up in the small and large ways you have and allowing this time for me and my family. I am thankful for a church that has empowered me to do so. And not that it gets much thanks these days, I am thankful for a denomination in the United Methodist Church that not only says it supports the family, but backs it up by allowing for both maternity and *paternity* leave.

With that said, I need to tell you what to expect when I see you all on September 9<sup>th</sup>. While I have been busy being daddy, I have also been doing some reading. One of the more jarring things I've read was a piece about the coming clergy shortage. For those in church leadership, this is not news, as we've been seeing the signs for quite some time. So, why do I mention it now? Because I believe the church is in for a calamitous couple of decades.

Yes, we're going to be losing clergy. No, seminaries are not able to recruit enough students to make up the difference. This is not small. It doesn't really affect churches like Christ UMC just yet. It's all the small, rural congregations that will soon have no choice but to shutter their doors. To be clear, they most likely would have to do it anyway, but the lack of a pastor may facilitate the process faster than anyone would like. All of this is on top of a decades-long exodus from the church. Oh, and this is before the United Methodist Church decides whether or not to split – which will have much greater consequences than we probably realize.

With all this happening in a world as fraught as ours, it might seem easy to lose hope. **Don't!**

This is a time when the church needs to be the church. Paul – in his second letter to the Corinthians – said we need three things: faith, hope, and love...the greatest of which is love. The church needs to keep the faith that no matter the mess surrounding us, God is ever-present. The church needs to remember that our hope is not in the relative quietness of the world around us, but in the presence and promises of God. And finally, the church needs to remember to let love prevail. God is love and God loves us. The world around us needs love, and we've been tasked by Jesus to engage the world with it.

When we remember these things – no matter what the world around us looks like – we can handle what's next.

Expect to hear much more of this when I return.

Peace,



### Singers and Musicians Wanted

We are always looking for more singers and musicians for the Chancel Choir and for Praise Team.

If you are interested in giving one or both groups a try, the Choir practices every Thursday at

7pm. You do not have to be a professional singer to join ... just enjoy singing and praising the Lord.

If you have questions about the Choir, you may contact Carolyn Eppley.

Praise Team typically meets 6:30pm on Thursday. Their practices will begin in September after Pastor Chris returns from paternity leave.

*“What is it like to be a Christian?”*

### To Be a Christian

A woman was asked by a co-worker, “What is it like to be a Christian?”

The co-worker replied, “It is like a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you

in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then, he cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then He carves you a new smiling

face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.”



### Bible Study Begins

Melissa Rice will be leading “**Revelation—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 Revelation in your bible. Come prepared

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



## Community Outreach



As part of *Lighthouse Missions 5th Sunday* missions project this month's theme is "Squeaky Clean Sunday."

All members are asked to participate by donating Pine Sol, toilet bowl cleaner, liquid hand

soap, and paper towels. There is also a need for peanut butter (18oz) jars as well as jelly jars, size 18oz—32oz.

This is a great opportunity to help our community and those in need.

**All donations should be brought to church by Sunday, September 30.**

To our friends at CUMC,

A note of thanks for your continued support of the Access Youth Center. The recent paper goods donation was AMAZING!

Blessings,  
Liz

THANKS

Thank you to the 17 Kroger Plus card holders who purchased groceries and household items during the last three months. **Christ Church earned \$54.57 this quarter.**

If you have not signed up to be a part of this program, you can contact the church office or call Sharon Yohe directly.



### F.I.S.H SUNDAY

SEPT. 2ND

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 September 2018

**8am Greeter** — Beverly Knee

**10am Liturgist** — 9/2 & 9/9: Mary Ellen Clark; 9/16: Tammy Allen; 9/23 & 9/30: Melanie Penn

#### 10am Greeters

9/2 Betty Buchanan, Ruth Biggs

9/9 Betty Buchanan, Ruth Biggs

9/16 Betty Buchanan, Ruth Biggs

9/23 Betty Buchanan, Ruth Biggs

9/30 Betty Buchanan, Ruth Biggs

**10am Ushers** — Kurt Brackenhamer, Lois Broyles, Chuck Dwyer

### Scripture Reading for September

9/2 Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

9/9 Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10, 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

9/16 Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

9/23 Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

9/30 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

## CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Phone: 260.563.3308  
Email: [wabashchristumc@hotmail.com](mailto:wabashchristumc@hotmail.com)

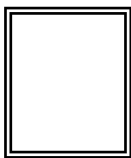


Items for the next newsletter should be submitted to the church office by **September 21st.**

**We're on the Web!**  
**[wabashchristumc.org](http://wabashchristumc.org)**



[Check us out on Facebook!](#)



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