

the NEWSREEL

McConnellsburg United Methodist Church, McConnellsburg, PA

OCTOBER 2018
Volume 24, Issue 10

from the pastor's pen . . .

On September 11th, full-time pastors in our area were summoned to attend the Bishop's Day Apart in Camp Hill, PA. The day centered around the work of The Commission on a Way Forward and the necessity of dialogue in our local churches concerning the future of the UMC. Nancy Cordell has graciously added a link in the Newsreel that will lead you an explanation of the three proposed plans headed to General Conference in February 2019. I would highly encourage each of you to check out this information. That being said, I thought I would add some of my thoughts and observations about the day on the whole.

1. There was a definite tension in the large room most of the day. Pastors are just as reticent to talk about the issue of human sexuality and the future of our denomination as lay people. Every pastor, indeed every person, interprets scripture in light of their own personal experience, the traditions of the church, and reasoning. We celebrate that process in our Wesleyan heritage. Oftentimes, it's referred to as the "Wesleyan Quadrilateral" although Wesley himself didn't coin the phrase.

2. I was impressed with Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball, West Virginia Bishop and Moderator of The Commission on a Way Forward. She spoke plainly, but expertly, about the entire process. I honestly wondered how she could remember all those dates and facts!

3. The passion for Jesus Christ and His mission in our world was clearly evident in the three panel participants. They took their work seriously, reverently, and with great humility. I never once doubted that they, or any member of the Commission, was operating on their own personal agenda. They seemed to

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www.mcconnellsburgumc.com

Sunday Services

Worship: 10:00 am

Sunday School: 9:00 am
(for all ages)

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be thoroughly committed to discerning God's will for our beloved Church.

4. Some specific things I learned were:

a) The Council of Bishops gave the Commission the task to foster deep conversations around human sexuality; stay open to new ways of moving forward and letting God's unlimited imagination and Kingdom purposes lead the way; and develop plans that maximize our UM witness in as many places as possible world-wide while allowing for contextual differentiation and promoting unity.

b) The Commission worked on two plans in the time provided which they felt fit into the parameters above: The Connectional Plan and The One Church Plan.

c) A group of traditional-thinking Bishop's fleshed out a Traditionalist Plan as well.

d) Those three plans were sent to the Judicial Council to see if they all were within the bounds of UM Constitution. No sense voting on a plan if it has serious flaws and is unconstitutional. We ran into that brick wall at the 2016 General Conference.

e) Personally, I think all three plans contain something that give me pause. The Traditionalist Plan seems excessively stringent in terms of accountability and could leave the UMC spending way too much time prosecuting instead of being church. The Connectional Plan seems to lead us down a very costly, inconvenient, and long-winding road. Finally, The One Church Plan seems to have tons of contextuality, but little consistency in terms of how to explain why every UM Church isn't all on the same page.

f) There are other plans going to General Conference to be considered. They come from groups who don't think the other three plans speak enough to various aspects of the issue.

g) I am glad I wasn't chosen to be a delegate to General Conference.

h) We need to commit ourselves to fervent prayer for our delegates, Bishops, and the entire United Methodist connection. If we turn to God and ask for wisdom, He will give it.

Please watch future Newsreels for additional information and an opportunity or two to engage in discussion about the future of our Church.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Robin

Want to know more? Here are some places you can check out . . .

www.susumc.org/files/Way_Forward_Summary.pdf ◇ This link will take you to the Way Forward Summary, written by Dr. Thomas L. Salsgiver, Director of Connectional Ministries and Administrative Services for the Susquehanna Conference, and a member of the Commission on a Way Forward.

www.umnews.org ◇ United Methodist News Service keeps you informed about *breaking news* that affects the church. UMNS also provides *features*, *commentaries* and *photos* that highlight the work of the church in every corner of the globe. The free daily and weekly e-newsletters also include news from annual conferences, UM agencies and other sources.

www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-5-things-you-need-to-know ◇ This link to the United Methodist website, is to an Overview on the Commission on a Way Forward. It includes links to the Commission's final report, Commission on a Way Forward timeline, information about the General Conference, and The Book of Discipline.

www.susumc.org/link ◇ *The Link* is a bi-monthly newspaper published by the Susquehanna Conference that provides a variety of current news and information.

www.um-insight.net ◇ *United Methodist Insight* seeks to provide information and perspectives for concerned United Methodists and decision-makers that will affect the future of The United Methodist Church. The publication is hosted by St. Stephen United Methodist Church of Mesquite, TX

www.wesleyancovenant.org ◇ Wesleyan Covenant Association is an association/network of individuals and congregations who share a common understanding of our Wesleyan doctrine and desire to become a vibrant, faithful, growing 21st -century church.



Church Council Meeting Minutes

To keep the congregation updated on happenings at the Church Council Meetings the following information was taken from their meeting minutes.

September - The regular meeting of the Church Council was held on September 18, 2018 with 11 people in attendance. There was an amendment to the August minutes – church conference is November 7, 2018 and not November 17, 2018.

Finance: The restricted fund/gym rental of \$546.00 was moved to the small mortgage and \$50.00 Norma DeShong Memorial Donation to the small mortgage. A \$5,000.00 donation shifted to the smaller loan with the small loan total of \$56,000.00. Discussion with MMA and possibly applying to smaller loan. Will await recommendation by the Finance Team. Check #8506 is Viper Security for the firewall.

SPRC: George Heacock reported review with April Harman, all favorable and Joan Kling will start working several hours a week to cover for April when necessary. The SPRC will continue with their reviews with the next meeting on October 1, 2018. George also reported the Pastoral Compensation Survey for 2019, which will be presented to conference.

Trustee's Report: Greg Gordon reported the possible leak in the Sunday School area was the internal air conditioner condenser unit and the drain bin, all is well in the area. The air conditioning units in the Friendship Room and hallway have quit working, a service call was made to repair these units. The piano bench and stool in the kitchen have been repaired. The carpet plaque is displayed in the vestibule area.

Youth: Kelli Miller reported VBS went well. “See you at the Pole” will be on September 26, 2018 at McConnellsburg High School at 7:00 A.M. Impact or Break Away is in March, 2019 and fund raisers will be starting to help for the cost of the trip for the youth.

Missions: Kelli Miller reported an individual was helped with the electrical bill and was very appreciated. Plans for making more prayer blankets for babies, children and adults. Ordering shoe boxes for Samaritans Purse and will have a Shoebox Filling Party in the near future and coordinating plans for Trunk or Treat in October.

Outreach Team: Reta Chamberlain reported that the Women’s Retreat went very well and the speakers were great. Kate Mellott reported that six women will be attending Joyce Meyer Ministries.

Old Business: Discussion with church directory, a committee was formed with Nancy Cordell, Kelli Miller and Kate Mellott to address the directory. Nancy Cordell is updating the church website. Reta Chamberlain asked to place Reta and Mont Chamberlain’s name to the website as the contact for the Faith & Life Center. Deb McGarvey reported that the kitchen passed inspection and the correspondence is in the kitchen, gymnasium and church office. Deb inquired if the church has any easels for displaying and possibly placing First Friday menu to the website as well as Social Media. Nancy Cordell expressed a thank you to Violet Culler for the display of flowers on the Bell Tower steps. Pastor Robin reported that Way Forward (Holy Conversation) has been postponed due to the Bishop being ill. A website is available for anyone to review at *UMC.org*.

New Business: Pastor Robin reported preparations for Fulton Fall Folk Festival, making dough for apple dumplings on Sunday, September 23, 2018 and making apple dumplings on Monday September 24, 2018. Everyone is invited. Church Conference is November 7, 2018 at MUMC at 7:00 P.M. Packets will be distributed one week prior.

Worship Committee: Leanne Pollock reported that the Worship Committee met on September 17, 2018 and planned church activities for the remainder of the year. The Adult Choir, Children’s Choir and HIS will be adding music to the service. Pastor Robin reported with the decline in church attendance, Sunday School and Children’s’ Church; and difficulty finding volunteers for the media screen, the Worship Committee has made a recommendation to going to one church service at 10:00 A.M., and Sunday School at 9:00 A.M. Pastor Robin and Ruth Reeder will address the congregation at 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, September 23, 2018. Since September has five Sundays, the fifth Sunday worship will be at 10:00 A.M., in the Faith and Life Center and on Sunday, October 7, 2018 will begin the worship service at 10:00 A.M. The Worship Committee’s recommendation to Administrative Council/Team Meeting was approved, all in favor and without any opposed. *We must bring the church together, bind us together Lord, please pray for the church.*



Finance Team Meeting

The regular meeting of the Finance Team was held on September 13, 2018 with eight people in attendance.

Old Business: Information on copier – Cost to lease (5 years) is \$298.37 monthly and includes service package. Outright purchase is \$11,535.79 and would need to purchase maintenance contract of approximately \$77 monthly. Team will need to review further once our current lease contract expires.

New Business: E-mail was received from District Superintendent concerning FCC information concerning personal microphones starting in 2020. They will have to have a certain band width. Jeremy has checked our mikes and out of the six, only one is not of required perimeters. He believes this can be corrected. August Balance Sheet was reviewed and approved. The Gym Rental of \$546.00, the Funeral Fund of \$480.84, and \$50 under Restricted Funds for a Memorial donation was approved to be applied to smaller mortgage loan for a total of \$1,076.84 to be applied to smaller loan balance. Under Restricted Funds, \$245 for VBS was to go towards specified giving, and Restricted Funds under FFFF on the Cito Breakfast, a correction of \$1,402.29 was applied under FFFF. A correction under Budget, Mission Outreach - \$300 should be shown under YTD column. The August Budget was approved as printed and corrected and is subject to audit. From the Blessings Fund, Check # 8536, payment to West Penn for an electric bill for needy family. The August journal was accepted as presented and approve unanimously. The 2019 Budget review to start at October meeting.



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Thy word
is a LAMP
unto my feet
and a LIGHT
unto my path.
Psalm 119:105

2018 Reading Plan

	Week	Dates
✓	41	Oct 7-13
	42	Oct 14-20
	43	Oct 21-27
	44	Oct 28-Nov 3

Week 41

- o Jer 27, 28, 29, 24; James 4
- o Jer 37, 21, 34; Psalm 79; James 5
- o Jer 30-33; 1 Peter 1
- o Jer 38, 39, 52; 1 Pet 2
- o 2 Kin 24-25; 2 Chr 36; Ps 126; 1 Pt 3

Week 42

- o Lamentations; Psalm 137; 1 Peter 4
- o Obodiah; Jer 40-42; Ps 147; 1 Pet 5
- o Jer 43, 44, 46; 2 Pet 1
- o Jer 47, 48, 49; Ps 80; 2 Pet 2
- o Jer 50-51; 2 Pet 3

Week 43

- o Ezekiel 1-3; John 1
- o Ezek 4-6; Psalm 82; John 2
- o Ezek 7-9; John 3
- o Ezek 10-12; Psalm 83; John 4
- o Ezek 13-15; Psalm 136; John 5

Week 44

- o Ezekiel 16-18; John 6
- o Ezek 19-21; Psalm 84; John 7
- o Ezek 22-24; Psalm 134; John 8
- o Ezek 25-27; Psalm 85; John 9
- o Ezek 28-30; John 10

Bible Verses to Help Overcome Gossiping

Psalm 10:7	Proverbs 10:31
Psalm 15:1-3	Proverbs 18:8
Psalm 19:14	Ecclesiastes 5:2
Psalm 39:1	Ecclesiastes 10:12
Psalm 52:1-3	Luke 12:3
Psalm 101:5	Ephesians 4:29
Psalm 120:2	Colossians 4:6
Psalm 141:3	James 3:4-5
Proverbs 4:24	James 3:8-10
Proverbs 10:19-20	1 Peter 3:10

2018		October				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	01	02 A Choir-6p	03 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p Youth Group Mtg-6p	04	05 First Friday Lunch 11a-1p	06 Love's Closet 9-11a
07 A Choir	08 Columbus Day SPRC Mtg-6p	09 A Choir-6p	10 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p K Choir-5:30p Youth Group Mtg-6p	11 Finance Mtg-6:30p	12	13
14 K Choir	15	16 A Choir-6p Council Mtg-7p	17 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p Youth Group Mtg-6p	18 Apple Dumpling Baking-8a A Choir-6p	19 FFFF	20 FFFF
21 FFFF A Choir	22	23 A Choir-6p Trustee Mtg-7p	24 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p Youth Group Mtg-6p	25 Trunk or Treat 5-7p	26	27
28 H.I.S.	29	30 A Choir-6p	31 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p Youth Group Mtg-6p	01	02	03
04	05	Notes: Reminder - Love's Closet sorting & set-up happens every Monday evening 6-8 pm A Choir - Adult Choir; K Choir - Kids Choir				

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 05 – Jeff & Kate Mellott | 17 – Marilyn Mellott | 25 – Justin & Kelli Miller |
| 07 – Cindel Hollenshead | 18 – Mont & Reta Chamberlain | 25 – Cindy Glessner |
| 09 – Denny Benedick | 18 – Mont Chamberlain | 26 – Joyce Cover |
| 13 – Steve & Tammy Young | 19 – Steve Weller | 31 – Alex McClain |
| 15 – Sheri McClain | 21 – Brad & Sherri McClain | 31 – Greg Gress |
| 15 – Tom & Melinda Howells | 22 – Victor Gobin | |

REMINDER – For additions or corrections to the birthday & anniversary list use the Newsreel Suggestion Box at the back of the sanctuary or email the church office (address on page 1)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH		
DATE	10.07	Nicole Wilson Kelli Miller
	10.14	Lindsay Newman Jamie Schetrompf
	10.21	Holly Stambaugh Vicki Gordon
	10.28	Penny Shives Jody Hann

NURSERY		
DATE	10.07	NEEDED
	10.14	NEEDED
	10.21	Sheri McClain
	10.28	NEEDED

Please see **Kelli Miller** if you can fill any of the vacancies shown for this month or if you have questions about what is required to be a helper, teacher, or nursery volunteer.

OCTOBER SCREEN SCHEDULE		
DATE	10.07	Dave Gourley
	10.14	Kelli Miller
	10.21	Dave Keaton
	10.28	Jeron Fletcher
	11.04	Kelli Miller

This & That

CORRECTION

The September Newsreel incorrectly reported the date of our Annual Church Conference as November 17.

**The correct date is
Wednesday, November 7.**
Beginning at 7:00 pm at the
McConnellsburg UMC.



After nearly **40 years** of volunteering, Ruth Reeder plans to retire as the coordinator of Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias. Glenda Shafer of the Flower Basket & Gift Box has agreed to take over for her. Ruth and Glenda will work together for the next year to ensure a smooth transition.

Thank you, Ruth for your faithfulness and Glenda for your willingness to serve!



SCHOOL SUPPLY PROJECT REPORT

The Fulton County Catholic Mission, with the support of local area churches, was able to provide school supplies to over 400 students throughout the county again this year. Your support of this mission is appreciated!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning October 2018
McConnellsburg UMC has a
NEW SERVICE TIME
Sunday Worship – 10:00 AM
Sunday School – 9:00 AM



*A Very Special
"Thank You!"*

A special thank you to everyone who helped make the Woman's Day Retreat a success. Whether it was help with organizing, donations, the sound/media, helping in the kitchen, preparing food, registration, attendance at the retreat or through your prayers. It was all appreciated.

In Him,
Reta Chamberlain

A Note from the Trustees . .

Are you aware the church owns two homes (each containing two apartments) on either side of the rear parking lot entrance? These properties were purchased years ago with the vision of expanding our parking areas. One of these houses is in desperate need of a new roof. If you would like to make a special donation toward this project please use the green envelopes provided in the box with your regular weekly-giving envelopes and mark it "ROOF". Thank you for your continued support.



Watch for bulletin
announcements
and sign-up sheets
for help with Fulton Fall
Folk Festival activities



We will be having our annual Trunk or Treat night on Thursday, October 25 from 5 to 7 PM on the square in front of the main church entrance. We're looking for folks to decorate their car trunks, truck beds, or vans and pass out candy and treats to all the little trick-or-treaters. We will also be giving out drinks and popcorn. Anyone who would like to donate juice boxes, small bottles of water, or candy may leave them in the back of the church. Questions? See Sue Keebaugh or Kelli Miller.

~ Servant of the Month ~

by Reta Chamberlain

The Servant of the Month for October is Jody Hann. Jody has been a member of the church for over 30 years. She was brought up in the church with her parents taking her to Sunday school and church services. Jody admires young parents that do the same with their children in the busy lives they have these days because the children would not know the Lord otherwise.

Jody is very active in the church. She is on the hospitality and decorating committees. She also organizes the dumpling making for the Fulton Fall Folk Festival and other things connected with the festival. She volunteers to help with First Friday meals, Bible school, and funeral luncheons when needed. She also helps with special needs camp in the summer.

When asked what she likes to do in her spare time she likes to sew and work with primitive crafts which she sells at "Christmas in McConnellsburg". The most important thing she does though is be her grandchildren's biggest fan at their activities at school.

I asked Jody what her favorite verse in the Bible is and she said it is Matthew 7:12, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Treat others as you would want to be treated.

It takes many hands to make a church thrive. We all need to be faithful servants in our church. Thank you, Jody for being a servant of the church and everything you do for it. Your church family appreciates you.



Thinking ahead

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) – National Shoebox Collection Week will be November 12-19. This will be the 25th year for this project and over 157 million shoebox gifts have been delivered to children in need in 160 countries over the years. Preprinted shoeboxes will be available in the coming weeks for your use. Here are some 'how-to's' for packing your shoebox from the www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child website.

- Decide if your box will be for a boy or girl and which age group (2-4, 5-9, or 10-14).
- Select a medium to large "wow" item for your box (i.e. soccer ball w/pump or stuffed animal).
- Then fill the box with other fun toys, hygiene items and/or school supplies.
- Pray. Pray for the child that will receive your box. You can include a personal note and photo if you'd like.



DO NOT INCLUDE - - - Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.



Discover the Destination of Your Shoebox Gift

Every shoebox needs a \$9 donation to provide for collecting, processing, shipping, and other project costs. If you make this donation online, you can Follow Your Box and receive a tracking label. Attach the label to your shoebox, and use our [Look-Up Tool](#) to find out the country where your box will be delivered with the message of Christ's love.

There are opportunities to sign up to volunteer at the processing warehouse in Columbia, MD. See Nancy Cordell, Kate Mellott, or Deb McGarvey for more info.



PEANUT BUTTER APPLE DIP

8 oz. cream cheese
1 cup peanut butter
1 cup brown sugar, packed
1/4 cup milk
4 to 6 apples, cut into wedges

In a mixing bowl, combine the first four ingredients; mix well. Serve with apples. Store in refrigerator. Yield: 2 2/3 cups.

Sue Ellen Nesbitt, 2009 McConnellsburg United Methodist Church Cookbook

AUTUMN TOSSED SALAD

1/2 cup lemon juice
1/2 cup sugar
2 tsp. onion, finely chopped
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
1/2 tsp. salt
2/3 cup vegetable oil
1 T poppy seeds
1 cup Swiss cheese, shredded (4 oz)
1 cup unsalted cashew or pecans
1 medium apple, chopped
1 medium pear, chopped
1/4 cup dried cranberries
1 to 2 bunches Romaine lettuce, torn

In blender, combine lemon juice, sugar, onion, mustard and salt. While processing, gradually add oil in a steady stream. Stir in poppy seeds. Transfer to small bowl, cover and refrigerate until chilled. In a large salad bowl, combine lettuce, cheese, cashews, apple, pear and cranberries. Drizzle with dressing. Toss to coat. May substitute other nuts if desired. Serves 10.

Jill Plessinger, 2009 McConnellsburg United Methodist Church Cookbook

SWEET BARBECUE SAUCE

1/3 cup steak sauce
3/4 cup ketchup
1/3 cup brown sugar

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine steak sauce, ketchup and brown sugar. Mix well, until sugar is completely dissolved. Use in recipes calling for barbecue sauce or drizzle over cooked meats. Makes about one cup.

MUMC Cook, 2009 McConnellsburg United Methodist Church Cookbook

There are a limited number of the 2009 cookbooks available.
If you would like one please see Kate Mellott or Nancy Cordell.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Become an Adult Education Tutor or Classroom Aide

Assist adult learners to prepare for their High School Equivalency (GED® HiSET®), learn English, or brush up on basic math & reading skills to enter employment, training, or postsecondary education.

No experience necessary!

To Volunteer, Contact Wendy @ Employment and Training

122 West Market St., McConnellsburg, PA

(717) 485-5131



A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

“Reverend,” said the young man, “I’m so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.” The minister chuckled, “I know what you mean. It’s the same in my business.”

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

God's Creations • Youth Director: Kelli Miller • October 2018

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS
I HAVE FOR YOU,"
DECLARES THE LORD,
"PLANS TO PROSPER YOU
AND NOT TO HARM YOU,
PLANS TO GIVE YOU
HOPE AND A FUTURE

JEREMIAH 29:11

All students
6th – 12th grades are
welcome to join us
on Wednesday nights
from 6-8.

If you have any
questions, email me at
kelli.cordell@yahoo.com

*coming
soon . . .*

sign up for

BREAKAWAY
YOUTH CONFERENCE

OC, MD
March 29-31,
2019

www.breakawayoc.org

Trust God's Timing

I think one of the best known bible verses that we take out of context is Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This is a verse we seem to apply to everyday life, that no matter what, God has got our back when it comes to making hard decisions. Sometimes we even act like God is a genie that's there to grant our wishes of what we want from our own future. But if we actually look at the story, and dig deeper into it, we get the full and complete picture. We need to start with Jeremiah 29:10 "This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place." He told them that they will be in exile for seventy years, but not to worry because HE knows the plans He has for them and us, and knows our future...but He never promised it to us on OUR time. When you buy tickets for a concert a month in advance, you put the tickets in a safe place until just before the concert when they are needed to get in and get your seats. You wait to cash those tickets in until THEY'RE ready for you, and God's promise is the same way! He will cash us in when we are ready for it because He knows us best and knows what we can handle

and when we can handle it. The key is to remain content at all times, contentment in waiting and trusting that God knows just the right moment for us to thrive. Philippians is a great example of contentment. We misuse Philippians 4:13 as well...if you want the real meat of the story, you need to read verse 12 with it as well. "12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." We try so hard to plan our week, our vacation, or our whole lives to the letter and that's when we miss the great spontaneous moments that we cherish forever. The best moments in life aren't planned, they're lived. So stop watching your clock, stop looking at your phone or calendar...Live for THIS moment, find contentment and joy in the now, and take solace in the fact that God has our "tomorrow" covered...We need to just trust in His divine time keeping. God never said life would be easy, He did however, say that we didn't have to do it alone. My advice is: Never skip a minute or waste a moment on frivolous things. Memories can be made anywhere and anytime.

Justin Miller

Did you ever know

there's an article on the umc.org website titled "Methodist History: Controversy, Communion, and Welch's Grape Juice"? It says even though you are probably familiar with Welch's Grape Juice it's likely you don't know it has ties to the history of The United Methodist Church. The temperance movement of the 1800s called for abstinence from alcohol which created a dilemma for the church since it used wine for communion. One would think substituting grape juice would be the answer but that wasn't as simple as it sounds. It wasn't until around 1915 that home refrigerators were available so raw grape juice, stored at room temperature, would naturally ferment into wine. Some churches didn't have communion when grapes were out of season and they couldn't make fresh juice, some chose to use water, and some just continued to use wine albeit a controversial choice. In 1868, Dr. Thomas B. Welch became a communion steward at a Methodist Episcopal Church in New Jersey and he vowed to provide his congregation with an unfermented sacramental wine. Welch was familiar with Louis Pasteur's scientific advances and thought he could apply those principles to preserving grape juice. After perfecting a juice pasteurization process he began selling Dr. Welch's Unfermented Wine to churches. Dr. Welch's son, Charles, grew the business and also marketed grape juice as a health tonic. In 1893 he offered samples at the Chicago World's Fair and it became even more popular. It eventually grew into the company we know today that offers juice, jam, jelly, and fruit snacks; but it all started with a communion steward in a Methodist church who wanted an unfermented wine for communion.

. . . and now you know.