

The Messenger

The Newsletter of the Tewksbury United Methodist Church

Summer 2010

“How’s your soul?” Maybe it sounds to you, strange and uncomfortable. But it is one of the classical Methodist questions to check the state of each other’s soul that most of us have forgotten to ask.

Let me present a story from our current Bible study material:

“Karla and I spent a week at Daybreak Retreat Center. We were soul weary. We had come to the point where our busy lives were ‘putting our souls in danger.’ Desperate for our souls to be mended, we gathered in the bitter December cold for our first meeting. We had come with a group of our friends and were anxious to meet Henri Nouwen and Sue Mosteller, the leaders of our retreat.

The first meeting brought together our group of eight, three workers at L’Arche, and three mentally and/or physically challenged residents of the community. I had read many of Henri Nouwen’s books and fully expected his remarks at our first meeting to be life changing. During the obligatory introductions, I had admitted to the group that my busyness was draining my soul of life – leaving it lifeless and weak. Although Henri’s opening remarks were interesting, I was disappointed. I expected profound insights. What I received was the logistical instruction for the week. After the meeting, somewhat dismayed, I was confronted by a handsome resident of L’Arche. I’ll call him Robert. Robert was in his forties, and although his appearance was normal, his vocabulary wasn’t – it was limited to maybe a few hundred words. He stood uncomfortably close, his face within inches of mine. With his eyes focused directly on mine he said, **‘Busy?’** Startled with his concise summary of what I had admitted earlier, I said patronizingly, ‘Yes, Robert, I’m very busy.’ **‘Too busy?’** he continued. ‘Yes, Robert,’ I admitted rather sheepishly, ‘I am too busy.’

I will never forget what happened next. He moved even closer (his eyes revealing his sadness for me) and asked with a sincerity I have seldom experienced, **‘Why?’**

My eyes filled with tears. Robert, a man with a very limited vocabulary, had asked the one question I had been afraid to ask. Somehow, he knew that the solution to my weariness was hidden somewhere in the answer to his question – a question I was afraid to ask and no one else had. Why was I so busy? Because I still was hanging on to the belief that God’s affection for me was measured by my activity for Him. The more things I did for God, the more He would love me, or so my insecurities kept telling me. Robert, in his childlike way, could see my insecurity, could feel my need to prove to God I was worth loving. By asking me a simple question, Robert started me on a journey toward intimacy with my Father. Amazingly, Robert’s risky curiosity peered deep into my soul, enabling me to begin hearing what God had been spending my lifetime trying to say to me: ‘I love you, Michael, question and all with an unconditional, no-strings-attached love.’ (*from Michael Yaconelli, Dangerous Wonder*)

Summer is here. This time of year always seems to offer a much needed opportunity to slow down and listen to what your life may be trying to tell you.

“How’s my soul?” “Busy?” “Too busy?” “Why?” I wish you can take these questions wherever you go this summer.

Enjoy your summer and have a good meditation!
Peace,

Moo

Committee Meetings

Trustees Meeting

August 3rd at 8:00pm

N.O.W. Committee

August 5th at 7:00pm

Worship Committee

July 6th at 7:00pm & August 10th at 7:00pm

Finance Committee

July 8th at 7:00pm & August 12th at 7:00pm

Church Council

July 20th at 7:00pm & August 17th at 7:00pm

Up Coming Events

Fellowship Breakfast

Our next Family Fellowship Breakfast will be Sunday, July 4th & Sunday, August 1st after worship. Each family is asked to bring one (1) breakfast item to share. Lets all visit and catch up with our church friends while enjoying a nice breakfast treat. We hope you can attend.

Tewksbury Ecumenical Vacation Bible

School Be apart of St. Williams School this summer for Vacation Bible School "High Seas" for children 4 –10 years old (August 2nd – 6th) 9am – noon at St. Williams School. For more Information contact Laurie Meuse at (978) 658-5503 or email ljmeuse@verizon.net.

Community "Cook-Out"

On Sunday, August 29th from 3pm – 6pm, Tewksbury United Methodist Church will be hosting a free "Cook-Out" for our Community. We will need donations, volunteers and a couple of grills for this community event. Save the date!!



Christmas in August

TUMC will be participating in "Christmas in August" this summer to continue our support of the Economic Ministry in Salem, Maine. The NEW donated items will be brought to Salem, Maine. The Salem Christmas Shop assists more than 100 families with the help of the United Methodist Economic Ministries. This program relies on churches and individuals to provide much needed supplies and support for this area of high unemployment. Look for the list of items in this Newsletter and the summer bulletin during worship service.

Something new! - It's a Gold Party!

One missing earring, jewelry from ex-boyfriends, a broken ring, gold or silver (jewelry only) or platinumwe all have some. This party will be your opportunity to discard that unwanted stuff and receive a check. Gather up your treasures and bring them to the church for this unique opportunity. The church will receive a 'hosting bonus' and you will have that old stuff out of your jewelry box with cash in your pocket. It's that easy! The company, Gold Party New England, will issue a check for your gold at the market price the day of the party. Visit www.goldpartynewengland for more information

Join us on Sunday, August the 8th from 2PM until 4PM. Invite your sister, your best friend, your mom, our aunt. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to the church at 978-658-9551 or twksumc@juno.com by August 7th. This will help us plan for refreshments. The more the merrier!

TUMC Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Coffee & Conversation Drop-in will be on July 13th, July 27th, August 10th and August 24th at 10:30am during the summer. Everyone is welcome to this casual stop by. Hope to see you there!



Choir practice – Summer months

Choir practice in the summer months will be on Sunday mornings ONLY starting at 9:00am. Worship Service follows at 9:30am. All new voices are welcomed!!

Country Line Dancing

Enjoy dancing? Want some fun exercise without going to the Gym? Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 7:00pm, come to Tewksbury United Methodist Church to Line Dance with Joe Steele. A beginner's class just started on Thursday nights; start learning the steps beginning at 6:00pm. Come and have fun with friends and learn to Line Dance. For more information go to www.clubcountry.net

Community Caring Summer Food Drive

This summer Tewksbury United Methodist church will be collecting food items for the Tewksbury Food Pantry. The Tewksbury Food Pantry provides a resource for those in need and to offer food and support. The Pantry's key achievements consist of, providing a safe, well kept, clean and comfortable environment which the clients can come to for food, food preparation suggestions and support from the volunteers. Each week we will collect a different food item. Here is the list of items for each Sunday.

July 4th - tuna fish
July 11th - cereals (hot, cold), pancake mix
July 18th - pasta & spaghetti sauce
July 25th - peanut butter, jelly, jams
August 1st - canned soups
August 8th - coffee, tea, hot chocolate
August 15th - sugar free products
August 22nd - rice
August 29th - canned vegetables

July Birthday's

Alessandra Sinopoli – 7/1/06
Chris Lindsey – 7/9 Juliana Wahl – 7/13
Dalton Dillon – 7/18 Evelyn Prince – 7/11
Nicholas Brooks – 7/19 Josh Powers – 7/19
Keith Brooks – 7/22 Dick DeFeo – 7/26
Milly O'Callaghan – 7-29-1925
Joey Lindsey – 7/30 Jim Green – 7/30

July Anniversaries

Debbie and Jim Rauseo – 7/8/1978
Douglas and Claire Maguire – 7/20/1958
John and Marion Shaw – 7/20

August Birthday's

Kristin Wahl – 8/2 Lynn Powers – 8/5
Cheryl Mallett – 8/7 Heidi Brooks – 8/13
Krystal Dillon – 8/16
Nena Gianomenico – 8/19

August Anniversaries

Ralph & Missy Gianomenico – 8/20

Summer Worship Volunteers

July Worship Leaders

July 4th – Jen Forgione
July 11th – Laverne Gosby
July 18th – Ray Bowden
July 25th – Michele Dickeson

August Worship Leaders

August 1st – Ellen Lewis
August 8th – Earl Kim
August 15th – Laverne Gosby
August 22nd – Lynn Powers
August 29th – Jee Hei Park

July Ushers

July 4th – Al Flood & Doug Maguire
July 11th – Barbara Jewer & Ray Bowden
July 18th – Jim & Barbara Blunt
July 25th – Barbara Jewer & Debbie Rauseo

August Ushers

August 1st – Al Flood & Barbara Jewer
August 8th – Jim & Barbara Blunt
August 15th – Barbara Jewer & Doug Maguire
August 22nd – Al & Ann Morelli
August 29th – Barbara Jewer & Laverne Gosby

July Greeters

July 4th – Marilyn Itzkowitz
July 11th – Marion Shaw
July 18th – Ginny O'Connell
July 25th – Evelyn Prince

August Greeters

August 1st – Fred & Esther Montague
August 8th – Tippy & Maxine Burgess
August 15th – Joyce Dalton
August 22nd – Doug Maguire
August 29th – Marilyn Itzkowitz

Thank you

Thank you to Ann Morrelli for taking the time creating new name tags for our congregation.

Summer Worship Service
Worship Service begins at 9:30am