

# Faith Calls...

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**Pastor's Thoughts**

**April, 2017**

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## How Goes it With Your Soul?

John Wesley's admonition to his small groups and Methodist societies was to greet each other with the question, "How goes it with your soul?" His intention was to create a group of believers who not only cared for their own salvation but also were willing to work for the salvation of others. Wesley was strict in his conditions for membership and equally strict in management of the groups. This strict attitude came from what Wesley saw as lax attitudes of the Anglican church, from which Methodism came and the need for the church to reclaim the Holy Spirit in all things.

So how goes it with your soul? Are you where you should be in your faith journey? Do you feel connected to the Holy Spirit? Deep questions, I'll assure you, but necessary for the good of your soul. Remember, it is your relationship with God that provides your salvation and sustains you. This relationship is intended to never be broken.

The fault in our faith journey is our need to be immediately satisfied and our need to trust in tangible things. Some are quick to abandon belief when difficulties cause us to question what we can't see or touch, mainly when we are hurt deeply or when God does not seem to hear our prayers. We are the ones who fail in the relationship.

The good in all of this is God's great attribute of forgiveness and love. God continues to seek us, even when we do not seek God.

The church family must be mindful it has an obligation to support one another in our common journey. Every common believer has a claim upon you. We are the hands and feet of God to each other as well as the world. If you are asking whether I'm saying God holds you responsible for your fellow believer, the answer is yes. Not for another's failures, but for your responsibility to love them back into relationship. We are called to be an active presence in each other's lives, caring and loving. Being an active presence is impossible without occasionally asking, "how goes it with your soul?"

Shalom,  
*David*

**Get Up and Give**, an opportunity to help those in need will run through Apr. 13. A list of items needed at Methodist Family Health is on the FYI table, and know that every gift is greatly appreciated.

**Thank you.** Mary Thielen and Barbara Matthews wish to thank all members of the congregation who responded to their prayer needs. They feel blessed to have received calls, cards, or meals from friends at Faith UMC. Ginny Ryan says, "Thank you for the cookies donated to the Red Cross. They really appreciated the 50-60 dozen treats."

## Up coming events:

- 4/8, "All Hands" Work Day (9:00am)**
- 4/13, Maundy Thursday (6:30pm)**
- 4/15, Egg Hunt (10:30am)**
- 4/16, Sunday School (9:45am) Worship Service (11am)**
- 4/21, Fish Fry (6pm) \$12 or \$14**

Mark your calendar and plan to help on April 8th with our "All Hands" **Work Day**. There are several places needing attention in our church. Some may work outdoors while others may pay close attention to indoor needs. Join us on this day as we help put the Lord's house in order prior to Easter.

Visit our **Church Library** which now shares a space in the Choir Room. There are many items that you are welcome to enjoy here or at home. Among them are self-helps, daily devotionals, books regarding the Methodist faith and beliefs, grief, parenting, Advent, Lent, and John Wesley. We have a fiction area and a corner for children. Several DVD's are available that you might enjoy watching. Just place your name and the title of materials you are borrowing in the notebook. When you finish, just add the return date near your name. We hope that you will enjoy browsing in our library.

Deadline for May newsletter is April 15, 2017

Call 483-3736 for "Moses" in Branson, May 9th.

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