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ONCE MORE AT THE LAKE:

Our last summer picnic at the St. John's UMC property at Clark Hill Lake (12553 Hwy 28 South, Clarks Hill, SC 29821) will be August 21. Once again we will have supper at 5 PM and the service around 6 PM. Come over early if you would like to take a dip! Please let us know at the office if you will be able to attend.

(Photo by John Donaldson via i-phone)



The Flame

of Burns Memorial United Methodist Church

August 2022

On Fire for Christ

Issue Number 199

From The Pastor

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the law and the prophets.” (Mathew 7:12, NKJV)

The sentence above is from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and it is how Jesus summarizes ethics. It is called the Golden Rule, and is usually restated thus: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

It is interesting to see that many other religious teachers expressed their values in similar ways. Hundreds of years before the Sermon on the Mount, the teachers of the Zoroastrianism of ancient Persia said, “Do not do unto another whatever is not good for one’s own self.” The Buddhist teachers in ancient India said, “Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. The Chinese teacher, Confucius, said, “What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.” Hindu teachers in India said, “One should not behave towards others in a way which is disagreeable to oneself.” And finally, about 100 years before Christ’s birth, the Jewish Rabbi Hillel, said “What is hateful to you; do not to your fellow man. This is the law: all the rest is commentary.” In fact, most ancient faiths have a version of the Golden Rule, stated negatively – do NOT do unto others what you would NOT want them to do unto you.

Jesus flips this and makes it a positive commandment. In effect, Jesus is saying that following him is not just the avoidance of evil, it is the active pursuit of the good. Instead of a way to decide what NOT to do, Jesus’ commandment is a guide of what you SHOULD do -- do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

So what does this look like? Just ask yourself, “How would I like to be treated?” We might list things like being treated with respect, with thoughtfulness, and kindness. We would hope to have our flaws overlooked and for people to look for our good qualities. We would like people to keep their promises to us, not to gossip about us, to respect our property. We would like people to forgive our wrongs, to give us second chances, to believe in us, to encourage us, even to rebuke us out of love. We would hope that others would help us in when we are in a crisis and not give up on us.


Now this is key! Notice, Jesus did not say that how you treat others is in anyway dependent on how they have, are, or will treat you. Others have treated you poorly, and they may continue to do so. Jesus is saying, don’t worry about it, go ahead and treat them right. He said, “overcome evil with good” and “love your enemies” and “pray for those who persecute you”. Being a Christian, friends, is about being willing to take the first step, over and over again. He never said following him would be easy.

The Flame Deadline: August 21st

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And friends, this command of Jesus is not just for individuals, it is also a command to our Burns Memorial United Methodist Church. I would love to hear your response to this question. How can we at Burns “do unto others as we wish they would do unto us?” How can we, as a Christian community, “love our neighbor as ourselves?” As we move towards the Fall of 2022, making plans for the year, let us keep Jesus’ command in mind.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor John




Let the United Methodist Men provide your Smoked Ham for Labor Day this year!


The spiral sliced smoked hams are approximately 10 lbs. and the price is \$50.


Last day to order a ham is Sunday, August 28.
Date for pick up is Friday, September 2, from 9 AM - Noon in the Family Life Center.

To order, please fill out a form and place it in the offering box, give it to a member of the UMM or call the church office. This is a fundraiser for missions of the Burns UMM. Thank You!



This is our last summer outing with the United Methodist Men. This month we will be going to Goolsby’s on August 25. Please mark your calendar and make plans to have dinner out with everyone this month!






Bible Studies:

Have you considered doing Bible Study as part of a group? Often, doing something as part of a regular group will help us to go further, and be more consistent, than we would if we did something alone. This is true of exercising, dieting, and also true of Bible Studies! After a summer break, we will be starting the Bible Studies back in August with a 4 to 6 week study of the book of 1 Peter. The same study will meet over the internet via ZOOM on Tuesdays at 6 PM, and in person at the church on Wednesdays at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome! (Photo by John-Mark Smith via pexels.com)

MORNING MOVERS

The Monday Movers have changed to the Morning Movers. They are meeting every day at 10:30, except Wednesday. On Wednesdays they walk at 11:15 AM following Bible Study! Come join in and get some great exercise with friends!





HELLO SUMMER!

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FIREWORKS
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FLOWERS
FRIENDS

FRUIT
FUN
HOT
LEMONADE
MEMORIES
POOL
POPSICLES
RELAX

SANDCASTLES
SUNSHINE
SWIMMING
SWIMSUITS
VACATION