



MAYO CONNECTION

MAY 2021 EDITION

MAYO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Message from the Pastor

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The eggs have been dyed and chopped into egg salad, the candy has been consumed, the Easter flowers have bloomed and begun to fade, the resurrection has been remembered, honored, and celebrated. Now what?

Now what? That is the question that the early disciples sat and contemplated in the days following the resurrection. They had seen Jesus, received his commands to love and to share the gospel and they had watched him ascend to heaven. Surely, they must have looked at one another and thought, now what?

Fortunately, as Jesus promised, they were not abandoned and left alone to figure that out. Instead during the celebration of Pentecost, an ancient feast celebration, God once more revealed God's presence in our lives as the Holy Spirit. The third person of the trinity, so completely present, and yet, so often ignored or misunderstood.

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as our companion, advocate, and the breath of God. Throughout scripture, the Holy Spirit is present in times of creation, blessing, and great moments of discipleship. As we approach our celebration of Pentecost and the receiving of the Holy Spirit in our lives, I ask you to invite the Spirit of God into your heart and soul anew.

Take a moment and consider your own breath. Close your eyes and draw a deep breath in, feeling it fill your nostrils, chest, and stomach. Hold your breath for a moment and feel its presence in your body. Then slowly release your breath again noticing its path as you exhale. Pause again and feel the emptiness and the need to take another breath.

It is no mistake that the word spirit is ruah in Hebrew, meaning breath. Thus, the Holy Spirit is quite literally the breath of God. Breathing is a vital part of being alive. I invite you to picture God so fully present in the world that you literally cannot draw breath without breathing God into your very being. Surely it makes sense that if each breath contains certain elements like oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide, that the very essence of God is also present? When we connect with the Holy Spirit, we share breath with God. Is there a more intimate connection?

During April and May we are exploring discipleship as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost. I want to share a prayer with you written by Jack Levison:

Holy Spirit,

We've got work to do
sleeves to roll up
loins to gird.

We've got a temple to construct—with lives to restore.

We've got a nation to build—with broken souls to revive.

We've got a future to imagine—with damaged dreams to heal.

Stand, Holy Spirit

not just before us—but in us,
not just behind us—but among us,
not just alongside us—but within us,

Lead, Holy Spirit

like the pillar of fire that drove us from the slave pits of Egypt,
like the pillar of cloud that steered us away from tyranny of Pharaoh,
like the angel of God's presence that piloted us from the captivity of empires.

Because we've got work to do

loins to gird
sleeves to roll up

And you are ready—living and breathing among us right now.

Amen.

The Holy Spirit is not new, but as ancient as God the Father and God the Son. Since the dawn of time, God has taken any form we need God to and been with us in A multitude of ways, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Jack wrote this prayer in 2015, but I feel that it speaks so powerfully to the right now. We have work to do, and we will need God to do that work. So, we call upon the Holy Spirit to renew relationship with us in the season of Easter and Pentecost. We invite the Holy Spirit to inspire us anew. We plead with the Holy Spirit to lead us once more in the work of discipleship, the work of God.

Peace and love be with you,

Pastor Amanda



May Worship Schedule

@ 8:15 AM || Outdoor (weather permitting) Casual Service

Worship is about a half-hour in our church parking lot. It includes word, sermon, and prayer service. This is the perfect fit if you like to start your day early, have additional plans on a Sunday, or just like being outside for worship.

@ 10:15 AM || Indoor || In-person Traditional Worship

Service is about 45-60 minutes long and is held in the sanctuary with social distancing. It includes word, sermon, prayer service, and music. This is the perfect fit for those who want to connect with God through a traditional structure of worship.

Virtual Worship || Available each Saturday beginning at 12 Noon

Tune in each and every Saturday on our [YouTube Channel @Mayo UMC](#) for virtual worship. The service parallels the 10:15 AM traditional structure of worship with a few changes. This is a great option if you are traveling or just need or want to worship from home.

UMW Lunch Out Returns!!

Every 1st Wednesday of the Month @ 12 Noon

We are limited to 6 people, but let's eat!

May 5th — Chevys Fresh Mex

2436 Solomons Island Rd, Annapolis, MD 21401

June 2nd — The All American Steakhouse

139 Mitchells Chance Rd, Edgewater, MD 21037

Please RSVP to Pastor Amanda at mayopastoramanda@gmail.com



Hello MAY

Men's Breakfast

Every 3rd Saturday of the Month @ 8:00 AM

MUMC Fellowship Hall

Pastor's Bible Study

Every Wednesday in May @ 6:00 PM

Join Pastor Amanda for four weeks in May as we study together "Footnotes" by Julie Lyles Carr. The study looks at "minor characters" that reveal major lessons. The book is available at both [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [cokesbury.com](https://www.cokesbury.com) if you want to purchase a copy. It is also ok to not have the book and just join in on the Wednesday discussions. The study will be offered via Zoom.

Invitation links will be distributed via email.

If you wish to attend in person, please let Pastor Amanda by emailing her at mayopastoramanda@gmail.com know and she will lead in a hybrid format.

Out In The "Virtual" World with Pastor Amanda

Sunday, May 16th @ 5:00 PM || Holy Lands Tour: Part 1

Join Pastor Amanda as she shares pictures and videos of the Holy Lands, including some of her own and shares her own experiences in the Holy Lands. Part 1 will include Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Please stay tuned for an invite via email.



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Hello MAY

Pastor's Suggested Reading

Here are some books I have read lately that I think you will find interesting. Feel free to email me at mayopastoramanda@gmail.com or make an appointment to discuss a book over a hot beverage!

***“Broken Body, Healing Spirit: Lectio Divina and Living with Illness”
by Mary C. Earle***

For centuries, Christians have turned to the Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina, or sacred reading, to pray the Scriptures and deepen their experience of God’s presence in their lives. In this gentle book, Mary Earle, who has suffered from serious illness of her own, explores how this ancient practice can be used to “read the text of our illness,” and, in doing so, discover God’s presence and guidance even amid pain and suffering.

***“The Four Vision Quests of Jesus”
by Steven Charleston***

“My book is about the four vision quests of Jesus. It tells how I came to read and interpret the Bible through the eyes of traditional Native American religion. It offers a Christian theology that is based on Native tradition, on the original Covenant God made with my ancestors, with the Native people of this continent... My goal in writing this book is to make a contribution toward the continuing development of a Native American Christian theology based on the Native Covenant, the tradition given to our people by God over 30,000 years of our spiritual evolution on this continent, a land sovereign to our nations and sacred to our people... Thank you for reading it. Welcome to the family.”

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Liturgists Needed!

It has always been the practice of the Methodist Church that laypersons share in the leading of worship. Being a liturgist is a great way to help with worship.

A liturgist helps with the word of worship, meaning they help to lead the call to worship, opening prayer, and share the Scripture reading. If you have an interest, please let Pastor Amanda by emailing her at mayopastoramanda@gmail.com know.

If you can read, then you can lead!



Join our
mailing list

Visit www.mayoumc.com

Welcome *May* *Blessings..*

May You be happy.

May You be well.

May You be safe.

May You find comfort.

May You have strength.

May You have courage.

May You find healing.

May You have peace.

May You have joy.

May You be filled with loving kindness.

inspire *Positive* IP
soul sensations SS

MAY YOU BE BLESSED

TODAY & Always. - Babz



Dear family and friends, it has been nearly a year since I lost my dear wife Carol. We had 37 years together, with many hills and valleys. We had some pits and some mountain tops. The pits were overcome with the support of family and friends. The mountain tops we were able to share with family and friends.

As time went by and Carol suffered from dementia. During this time there were two things she requested all the time. The first was to go grocery shopping, the second and most important request was to go to Church. She loved going in and seeing her friends and worshipping. This also gave me the boost I needed to continue what God gave me to do.

I have not been able to attend church in Mayo because of changes I have made. A dear friend offered me a small house on the water in Woolford, MD (near Cambridge). This has been a Godsend because I have been able to relax, reflect, and grow into what God has planned for me.

As I sit here writing, I am thinking how the weather resembles our lives. This week, the second week of February, we have had temperatures from 20-60, rain, sunshine, snow, ice, fog, flooding. Yet through it all I am able to listen to the bright sound of one bird chirping, a message from God saying everything is OK.

I want to thank you for your well wishes, the love you showed for Carol, and the support you have given me this past year.

Gods Blessings!

Andy

PRAYER REQUEST

Beloved, we seek to keep an active list of those who need ongoing or long-term prayer throughout the month. However, over time this list needs to be refreshed to ensure it serves as the helpful prayer tool it is designed to be for the congregation.

If you have someone you would like listed on the long-term prayer list please submit their name to mayoumcmd@gmail.com or call 410.798.6110 and leave a voice message by the 15th for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Please continue to pray for our shut-ins,

Doris Haschert

Leila Youngren

and for all those who are confined to their homes during the pandemic.

Please pray for those who have lost loved ones recently, especially:

The family and friends of Catherine Dixon

The family and friends of Shirley Guy

The family and friends of Wilbur "Pete" Lanier

Let us also continue to pray for victims of COVID-19, our national and local leaders in our government, the victims of the recent violence around the world and other victims of natural disasters, our military personnel and their families, and all those in need of healing.

LET US PRAY

THE POWER OF PRAYER