OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS – The People of the United Methodist Church

The ECHOES of Edwards

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Pastor's Column:

"Be Encouraged"

discouraged, discouraging. 1. to deprive of courage, hope, or confidence; dishearten; dispirit.

Hurricanes. Missile launchings. Ships colliding. Troops deploying. People hating. Much is going on in our world. Recent events in our country suggest that age old scars have been ripped open, and wounds once thought healed have been festering just under the skin.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we have a problem. Our Bishop has named it. He calls it a "Civility Problem." I fear he his right. Perhaps you will agree with him…or not.

To that end I forward this letter from Bishop Julius Tremble. I ask that you read it, ponder it, search yourself, and then pray that God will give you…and the Church…a way forward…so that we will not remain ***discouraged.***

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God's wind swept over the waters — God said, "Let there be light." And so light appeared. God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. God named the light Day and the darkness Night. There was evening and there was morning: the first day." **Genesis 1:1-5 (CEB)**

"Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth." **Genesis 1:26 (CEB)**

Brothers and Sisters,

Throughout this summer I have connected with family and neighbors in ways that have made my heart sing. I have

heard sermons from pastors serving our churches, as well as reports from our Conference Superintendents regarding the transition of pastors and the clear and compelling message of the Gospel being preached.

In this season, I am *"leaning in"* as a leader, and I count it as a joy to do so with you. In the past 45 days, I have traveled to Minneapolis, MN, and Charleston, SC to attend family reunions. While these travels have brought joy and refreshment to my soul, I cannot ignore the fact that both of these world-class cities have experienced heightened racial tensions due to police shootings of black men and strained police/community relations.

And let us not forget the atrocity of the Charleston church massacre where nine members of Emmanuel AME Church (also known as Mother Emmanuel) were shot and killed by self-avowed white supremacist Dylan Roof, during a bible study held June 17, 2015. I also invite us to be in prayer for the events happening in Charleston just today.

During our time in South Carolina, we toured the McLeod Plantation. The tour highlighted many stories of wealth development from sea cotton and the African slave trade. Our history in North America is both complex and compelling with stories of brown and black people often distorted or buried under the historical and socioeconomic realities of white privilege.

For me, the recent visit to this beautiful plantation was a vivid reminder of the blood, sweat, and tears that are the backdrop of our history. We all stand on the shoulders of men and women who came before us. Immigrants and slaves, oppressors and the oppressed; the diversity of humanity — each of us with stories worthy of consideration as we resist the temptation to equate differences with deficiency.

Beloved of Indiana, we have a major problem that we must address: As John Wesley proclaimed and recorded, the practice of the Holy life and the transformation of society means that inward holiness must manifest in outward holiness.

Outward holiness is more than works of mercy and acts of kindness. The love of God we received is the essence of Christianity. Wesley believed that Love was, "the never failing remedy for all the evils of a disordered world, for all the miseries and vices of the human race" (sermon on *Laying the Foundation of New Chapel, 1777*).

Created in the image of God, we are to live in harmony with both God and our neighbors. I believe that we are living below our God-given potential when we fail to acknowledge and oppose the presence of white supremacist rhetoric and groups.

We also fail to live up to our Kingdom potential when we embrace, without critique, an "America First" rhetoric and worldview.

We must ask ourselves, "What do you hear when our President says '*Make America Great Again.*'?"

When was the United States of America at its greatest?

While we can acknowledge that there is a civility problem that exists in the White House we must also recognize that there is a civility problem in the Church. Currently, I am reading Christine Porath's book, *Mastering Civility*. In the book, she reminds readers, "that if you are excessively focused on yourself, you're going to be that much less concerned about the effects of your behavior on others."

In a 2016 *Civility in America* survey, 95 percent of respondents believed we have a civility problem in America, 70 percent believed incivility has reached crisis proportions. I believe that incivility continues to rise from both ignorance and malice.

I also believe that we have a responsibility, beginning today, by promoting a commitment to Christian civility

demonstrated through positive gestures and a consistent communication of respect, dignity, courtesy, and kindness that lifts up instead of tears down.

As a bishop of The United Methodist Church, I call on all leaders (lay and clergy) to speak out against injustice, to name inequality, and to tackle our incivility head on through preaching, teaching, acts of kindness, and by offering light and hope to the world.

We are called to prophetically embody the goodness and selflessness of Christ and strive to become the change we wish to see across the world.

As United Methodists, we are called to be leaders in our homes, workplaces, communities, and especially our churches. To do this we need to remind ourselves of the Lord's Prayer, our Wesleyan heritage, and the Gospel message to *Do Justice*, *Love Mercy*, and *Walk Humbly with our God* who sees us all and can teach us to live without fear of our neighbors.

The Gospel message is **LOVE**. Love unites and strengthens us all to be who we were created to be.

My prayer is that we will engage in prayer, critical community-building conversations and activities, relationship building, and on occasion, protest against those things antithetical to the Gospel of Love. And I pray that we will be shaped by God's Heart.

Be encouraged,

Bishop Julius C. Tremble

And Remember….

He's Coming Back

Pastor Scott Bell

TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN THE CHOIR

10. You're running out of clean clothes and the choir robes save on laundry.

9. You've just been selected for jury duty and want to get used to sitting with a group of people.

8. You will always have a reserved seat for Easter and Christmas.

7. The collection plate is never passed to the choir.

6. There's a clock at the back of the sanctuary and and you want to be the first to know when it's 11:00.

5. People who are involved in music live longer.

4. For years you've wanted to know who sits in the back pews and in the parlor but were always afraid to turn around.

3. You've been known to nod off during the service and don't want the preacher to catch you.

2. No auditions or solos required.

1. Serving the Lord, considering all He does for us, is just a little giving back to HIM!!

Practice on Wednesday Nights at 7pm in the sancutary.

Budget Report

2017 Budget	$199,893.00
Received YTD	123,153.36
Received in August	14,474.83
Budget	14,026.83
Youth Fund	20.00
Finance Fund Raising	80.00
Good Samaritan Fund	148.00
UMCOR	200.00

OUR FRIENDS IN THE HOSPITAL

OR ILL DURING: *August*

Get-Well Wishes to: Charmayne Dare, Courtney Fairchild, Jeff Paxton, Linda Teeguarden, Renota Stanaford, Lorenzo Shepler, Mary Snyder, Daniel Bolser, Rick Walters, Ruth Logue, Jordan Lathery, Joe Moehring, Esther Bunch Randy Gentry, Wanda Pierce, Malcolm Miles, Quentin Richardson, Taylor Bunch, Ruth Bertch, Juanita Jordan Christi Harris, Audrey Brown, Julia Porter, Lloyd Bowers

>Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church expresses its sincere sympathies to the family of Dianne Oler who passed away on Friday, Aug. 25th. She was the mother of Wes Oler. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Spiritual Moment

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Everyone is invited to come and watch the movie

War Room

On Sunday, September 10th at 6:00pm in the sanctuary.

Popcorn provided!

In follow-up, the Discovery Sunday school class will be starting the Bible study based on the movie *War Room* on September 17th. If you would like to join us, let Brian Wilkin or Laurie West know so we have enough study materials. Cost is $10.

God Bless you on your Birthday
God be with you everyday!

Birthdays remind us of God's gift of life.

Your birthday reminds us of your special place in our Christian family.

(Please notify us of Corrections or Omissions)

Here are the September Birthday's:

1: Mindy Shepler
3: Jacob Bowers, George Fields, Becky Seibert
4: Brian Shepler
6: Bill Bennett, Melanie Watterson
8: Luann Swafford
9: Larry Gulley, Xandra Davis, Todd Woodruff, Melanie McDaniel
10: Benjamin Dunning
11: Roger Redinger
12: Leah Gabbard
13: Arthur Redinger, Benjamin Bolser Berniece Tipton, Lillian Myers, Alison Rhonemus
14: Rhonda Wilkin
15: Cameron Sanford, Lane Brown
16: Teresa Fisk
17: Ed Swafford, Don Hiatt
18: Luke Seibert
25: Todd Fields
26: Ann Tobin, Paige Whipple
27: Adam Hoskins, Connor Payne
28: Claire Cashdollar, David Rockhill
30: Allison Kassens

to all who provided us with flowers for the worship services during the month of August:

Sue Fields
Don & Jeannine Hiatt
Dale & Donna Stevens

Upper Rooms: The Sept/Oct. Upper Rooms are now available in the back of the sanctuary. Please help yourselves to this wonderful devotional magazine. There is a basket next to the rack is you wish to leave a donation to help offset the cost.

2017

Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9 am Sunday School **10 am** Worhsip Service	**Labor Day Office Closed**	**EMNS Returns** **5 pm-8 pm** **ABLBH**	**7 pm** Choir Practice	**7 pm-9 pm** Recovery Group in RFC		UMW District Meeting 9am at Central UMC
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 am Sunday School **10 am** Worship Service	**7 pm** Trustees Meeting in RFC	**5 pm-8 pm** **ABLBH**	**7 pm** Choir Practice	**7 pm-9 pm** Recovery Group in RFC		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9 am Sunday School **10 am** Worship Service	**6:30pm** Worship Committee in RFC **7pm** Ad Council in RFC	**5 pm-8 pm** **ABLBH**	**7 pm** Choir Practice	**7 pm-9 pm** Recovery Group in RFC	***October Newsletter articles due***	**9am UMW** Meeting RFC or Parlor
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9 am Sunday School **10 am** Worship Service **Fund Raising Dinner** following worship service in RFC		**5 pm-8 pm** **ABLBH**	**7 pm** Choir Practice	*October Newsletter goes out* **7 pm-9 pm** Recovery Group in RFC		**3pm-11pm** Retirement Party in RFC

Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church

Sunday Mornings:

Sunday School: 9am
Worship Service: 10am

"Come and See What God Can Do!"

Invite a friend!!

Fund Raising Dinner

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017

Following church in RFC

HAMBURGERS
HOT DOGS
& BRATS
CORN
POTATO SALAD
COLESLAW
CHIPS
AND ICE CREAM BAR
FOR DESSERT

Adults: $6.00
Children: $3.00

All proceeds go to the Fund Raising Account