

May Brings Special Days for United Methodists

May is a month of celebration in our Church and our nation. Besides Mother's Day and Memorial Day, Christians observe Ascension Day (May 13) and Pentecost Sunday. United Methodists have two other special days to celebrate: Aldersgate Day (May 24) and Peace with Justice Sunday (May 30).

Aldersgate Day marks an event in the life of John Wesley when, during a Bible study in 1738, the Holy Spirit moved with such clarity that he would later write, "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation."

Peace with Justice Sunday was established by the 1988 General Conference to support ministries that promote peace and justice at home and around the globe. Half of the offerings received here remain in Western Pennsylvania. (Learn more at www.umcsgiving.org.)

Seeking peace with justice is rooted in our Wesleyan heritage. Early Methodists intentionally kept faith and works in balance with a "both/and" mentality: piety and charity, personal and social holiness, grace and discipline, being and doing, form and power.

Today we're invited to replicate this creative "both/and" Wesleyan spirit. Just as 18th Century England needed the Methodist movement, our congregations and commu-

nities need relevant faith today. We need opportunities and relationships that love us into the presence of God. We need life-changing grace. We need places to live out our faith boldly and generously, making a difference for others. We need warmed hearts and willing hands to work for what is fair and just. We need the inner peace of a Savior (conversion) and the innovative expressions of living like the Prince of Peace (sanctification).

Where is the Holy Spirit calling you into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ? How is God warming your heart? Where is the Spirit of

gentleness stirring you from placidness?

Wesley's fear was not that Methodists would cease to exist, but that we would exist as a dead sect with the form, but not the power, of religion. Did Wesley start out to change his world or revive the Church of England?

Regardless of intentions, through him God stirred deep faith and improved the health and quality of life of thousands of people.

How? One by one in coal mines and class meetings. Why? Because the spirit was moving and Wesley and his followers responded.

That Spirit is moving now. How will you respond?

By Lisa Grant, Director of Connectional Ministries



Bible Study and Prayer

Join United Methodists throughout Western Pennsylvania in studying these Bible passages from the *Revised Common Lectionary* and praying for these ministries and persons:

May 2-8

Fifth Sunday of Easter - White Golden Cross Sunday & Offering

Read: Acts 11:1-18; Ps. 148 (UMH 861); Rev. 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Pray for:

- ✠ Eastbrook UMC, Butler Dist., Nelson T. Thayer, pastor
- ✠ Harrisville:Pleasantview UMC, Franklin Dist., Ronald L. Hankey, pastor
- ✠ Du Bois:First UMC, Indiana Dist., James L. Miller, pastor
- ✠ Mount Lebanon UMC, Pittsburgh Dist., Oden R. Warman, pastor; Kimberly B. Greway, associate

May 9-15

Sixth Sunday of Easter - White

Read: Acts 16:9-15; Ps. 67 (UMH 791); Rev. 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

Ascension Day, May 13

Read: Acts 1:1-11; Ps. 47 (UMH 781); Eph. 1:15-23; Lk. 24:44-53

Pray for:

- ✠ Diamond:Evangelical & Enterprise UMCs, Erie-Meadville Dist., Stephen A. Tiffany, pastor
- ✠ Jennerstown UMC, Connellsville Dist., Charles F. Hildbold Jr., pastor
- ✠ Grove Avenue UMC, Johnstown Dist., Edward A. Schoeneck, pastor

May 16-22

Seventh Sunday of Easter - White

Read: Acts 11:1-18; Ps. 148 (UMH 861); Rev. 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Pray for:

- ✠ Pulaski UMC, Butler Dist., Robert Kifer, pastor
- ✠ Robinson Chapel, Erie-Meadville Dist., Terry L. Williams, pastor
- ✠ Kane:First UMC, Kane Dist., David S. Lake, pastor
- ✠ Fox Chapel:Faith UMC, Pittsburgh Dist., David R. Vaughn, pastor
- ✠ New Kensington UMC, Greensburg Dist., Bramwell Kjellgren, pastor

May 23-29

Pentecost - Red

Aldersgate Sunday, Heritage Sunday

Read: Acts 2:1-21; Ps. 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826); Rom. 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

Pray for:

- ✠ Coal Center:Grace UMC, Washington Dist., John K. Smith, pastor
- ✠ Noblestown, Federal & McDonald UMCs, Washington Dist., Richard D. Updegraff, pastor
- ✠ Norrisville UMC, Erie-Meadville Dist., Russell D. Hines, pastor
- ✠ Holiday Park UMC, Greensburg Dist., Joel S. Garrett, pastor

May 30-June 5

Trinity Sunday/First Sunday after Pentecost - White

Peace with Justice Sunday (one of the Six Special Sundays)

Read: Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31; Ps. 8 (UMH 743); Rom. 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Pray for:

- ✠ Pleasantville UMC, Erie-Meadville Dist., Donald Lester Russell, pastor
- ✠ Reynoldsville:First UMC, Indiana Dist., Dayton D. Mix, pastor
- ✠ Lottsville and Sugar Grove UMCs, Kane Dist., Vicki L. Oliver, pastor
- ✠ Knox UMC, Franklin Dist., Donald L. Poole, pastor
- ✠ Somerset:First UMC, Connellsville Dist., Dale R. Shunk, pastor
- ✠ Penns Woods UMC, Greensburg Dist., Nathan W. Carlson, pastor