

Fairfield Bay United Methodist Church

News & Views

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LECTIONARY

READINGS

October 6

17th Sunday after

Pentecost

World Communion

Sunday (Offering)

Lamentations 1:1-6

Psalms 137

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

October 13

18th Sunday after

Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalms 66:1-12

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

October 20

19th Sunday after

Pentecost

Laity Sunday

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalms 119:97-104 or

Psalms 19

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

October 27

20th Sunday after

Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32

Psalms 65

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

Does It Matter?

As a pastor, it's not unusual for me to hear, "I believe it doesn't matter where a person goes to church." Others have said that it doesn't matter if you attend church, or "I can be just as good a Christian without going to church." The background behind those statements is, "It doesn't matter what I believe." Does it?

I had an acquaintance who once believed he could fly. So he strapped shoe box lids to his arms, climbed to the top of the barn, and jumped off. Fortunately the hem of his new overalls hung on a nail.

A series of surveys done by the George Barna Group concluded that "among born-again adults, *none* of the individuals interviewed said that the single, most important goal in their life was to be a committed follower of Jesus Christ."

Jesus said that anyone who doesn't "take up his cross and follow Me (cleave steadfastly to Me, conforming wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also) is qualified to be called mine." Sounds like a disconnect to me.

We believe one brand of computer is best so we buy it.

We believe we look best in black so we wear it.

We believe the Democrat or Republican candidate is best so we vote for him.

We believe we can lose weight by avoiding carbs so we pass on bread.

So do we believe Jesus is important? He said the greatest thing anyone could do was to love God with all that he was and had. And yet Barna found out that having a "close, personal relationship with God" ranked only 6th among committed Christians' priorities, behind goals such as "living a comfortable lifestyle." Another study found that one of the most irrelevant indicators of beliefs and lifestyles was whether or not a person claimed Christianity. *A person's claimed commitment to Christ had no discernable effect on his beliefs, actions, and preferences.* Say it ain't so!

The truth is that religion—what we believe about the issues most fundamental to humans—is relevant. What one should believe and its relevance is the subject of a huge debate within The United Methodist Church, other denominations, and even the public square. How we think, speak, and act regarding race, war, homosexuality, abortion, marriage, education, poverty, immigration, suffering, business ethics, Medicare, and even tennis shoes is shaped—rather, determined—by what we believe, not by what we claim to believe.

Our calling is to be and to make disciples for Jesus Christ. We are to follow the Apostle Paul as he followed Christ. It was for good reason that 2000 years ago Jesus' followers began to be called "Christian" (Little Christs.) It was for good reason that John Wesley and some Oxford college students began to be called "Methodists"—they *methodically* read and studied the Bible, prayed, supported one another, witnessed to Christ, gave to the poor, and visited prisons and poorhouses. Should we still be called "Christian" and "Methodist?" Yes! If, by God's grace, we strive to follow Christ.

Paul

By the way, my friend *believed* he could fly and that belief drove him to become an accomplished pilot. Our beliefs are always out front, guiding us.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ingeborg Baur	05
Michael McAllister	07
Bob Reid	08
Kathy Williamson	08
Bonda Moyer	17
Lynne Corcoran	18
Daniel Strang	19
Jan Vandygriff	26
Tommie Culver	29

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Roger & Barbara Lafoon	10
Jim & Gail McKnight	16
Robert & Dixie Lee	23

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

Gerry Biles

Ken & Linn Meseke

Mona Arnold

USHER SCHEDULE

Schedule for October:

6th: Brenda Smith, Kathy Williamson, Greg & Edie Calaway and Eric Jolly

13th: Linn & Ken Meseke, Rebecca & Jeff Jenkins and Henry & Charlene Burge

20th: Karen Evans, Bob & Dixie Lee, and Barbara McClary

27th: Bill Bain, Jim & Gail McKnight, Ken & Laurie Beckwith and Ken Gates

If you are interested in joining the usher team please call Linn Meseke at 884-6693. Anyone is welcome.

Liturgists for October: Deena McAllister, Gene Christensen, Mike McAllister, and Brenda Smith

Communion Servers: Jim & Gail McKnight and Neva Erickson

October Greeters: Mary Ann Roberts and Debra Lutz

Substitutes: Dixie Lee and Barbara McClary.

FELLOWSHIP TIME FOR SEPTEMBER

The Members of Missions Committee are responsible for fellowship time during the month of October.