



**JULY/AUGUST  
2018**

**Banks  
Community  
United Methodist  
Church**

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We will be reading the Gospel of Mark the next few weeks, as the Revised Common

Lectionary guides us in our study. It is a good time to explore the career of the remarkable evangelist who wrote by the guiding of the Holy Spirit.



*Saint Mark Gospel Writer Evangelist. St. Peter's Basilica Vatican Rome Italy. 17th c. (123RF.com)*

Mark's gospel is the oldest and the shortest of the four, thought to be written in the middle of the 1st c. AD even as early as the year 55. We take the author to be the cousin of Barnabas, the evangelist who

worked with the Apostle Paul in the missionary journey into Pisidian Antioch in Asia Minor (now modern Turkey).

John-Mark was a Jewish Jesus-follower. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas as far as Perga on the first missionary journey. There, he turned back to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). It seems Paul was very disappointed in the young man. Paul got over that, and later in his ministry counted Mark as one of his most useful helpers (Colossians 4:10).

Mark penned a dramatic, fast-paced telling of the Gospel of Jesus. As the son of Mary (Acts 12:12) whose home was a notable house church in Jerusalem, he was at the center of the work of the earliest Christian congregations. He had a very close relationship with the Apostle Peter. Mark worked with him in Rome as a translator and interpreter (Eusebius).

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In art, the Apostle Mark is often depicted accompanied by a lion, his emblem among the gospel writers. Matthew is represented by a winged man or angel, Luke by an ox and John by an eagle.



Alamy Photo – The Apostle Mark

Matthew’s gospel owes much to Mark’s – having some passages exactly the same. Mark surely had the witness of the Apostle Peter to guide him in his telling of the stories of Jesus. Mark was not among Jesus’ original disciples.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Margot*



### FOOD OF THE MONTH

The Food of the Month program has added greatly to our supply of items that go into our Christmas food boxes and we thank you. We hope you enjoy bringing in the listed foods each month to help build up our supply. For this year the items and months of collection are as follows:



- July – refried beans
- August – diced tomatoes
- September – hearty soups
- October – stove top stuffing – chicken
- November/December – chicken broth

### July

- 07/02 Liam Knifer
- 07/16 Norma Stewart
- 07/26 Ed Sipp
- 07/29 Cindy Sprague
- 07/29 Walt Gribner
- 07/30 Margot Thompson



### August

- 08/02 Sally Smith
- 08/06 Leola Stigleman
- 08/11 Jeanine Bake
- 08/19 Nancy Ridgway
- 08/21 Siesta Fonua
- 08/24 Bob Russell



### CALENDAR FOR JULY/AUGUST:

7/4 ~ Independence Day!

7/8 ~ Ad Council meeting follows the service

8/17 - 8/19 ~ Banks BBQ, Truck and Tractor Pull at Sunset Park.

### WEDNESDAYS:

9:30 AM: OGC a “retired guys fellowship” meets at the Trailhead Café.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

I know it is only early summer but now is the best time to start thinking about shoeboxes, what to purchase, what to pack, the children we can be praying for. When children receive an Operation Christmas Child shoebox they not only have the joy of getting lots of goodies that will be personally theirs, but they have the opportunity to learn about Jesus and a pathway to salvation.

*A DAY TO REMEMBER IN VIETNAM*  
*Receiving an Operation Christmas Child shoebox is something that 8 year old Hung will long remember. He hugged his shoebox tightly to his chest and smiled big. "I don't get gifts very often. This is very special," he said.*

*Hung's favorite gift was a **baseball mitt**. He loves to play baseball but has never had a mitt. He just uses his hands.*

*Mydzung was delighted to receive **colored pencils** in her shoebox because she doesn't have any at home. The second grader's favorite subject in school is art.*

*Mydzung father is a motorbike repairman and her mother sells meat at a local market. Mydzung enjoys riding her bicycle, jumping rope and playing with her older brother. Mydzung was also excited to receive a box of **colorful jewelry beads**.*

*When volunteers asked the children to raise high in the air their favorite gift item, 6 year old My was one of many to raise her **sidewalk chalk**. "The color is so beautiful. I am very happy," she said.*

*My's mother sells goods at the market and her father is a truck driver who is sometimes away from home for long periods of time.*

*We can pray for children in Vietnam like My, Mydzung and Hung. Pray that they will know God's love for them. Pray for the millions of children across the world who will receive Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and have an opportunity to hear about God's love.*

Now is the season to be looking for sales on T-shirts, leggings, flip-flops and other clothing items you might want to pack in a shoebox. We will soon be in the season for sales on school supplies. As you read above, colored pencils and chalk are a favorite with the children as are sports items. In some countries children cannot attend school unless they have school supplies. Personal hygiene items are always a necessity and stuffed animals are always adored. We want to pack the fun or huggable gifts, the necessary gifts, and the prayers into each shoebox to make them special.

Last year the collection number for shoeboxes was down throughout the entire NW Oregon region so this year the regional team is urging everyone to step up and increase their donations. Our own Banks Drop-Off center received fewer shoeboxes, 877, and fewer from BCUMC with 61. For this year we have set a goal for the Drop-Off center of 1200 boxes! We will need your help and are asking for you to be in prayer for this wonderful mission project and the role you will play in reaching children in the name of Jesus.

Thank you.

## CASCADIA ALL- DISTRICT FALL EVENT SAT., SEPT. 22ND

On Saturday, September 22nd the Cascadia District will hold an event in Salem for **all clergy and members of our district churches!**

**In the morning there will be a time for clergy to gather**, the all-district fall kick-off colloquy.

**At noon there will be a catered lunch for lay and clergy with a program by the Cascadia District Church Extension Society (CDCES).** The Extension Society is an example of our connectional system, with churches supporting other churches through the Extension Society Asking (has your church paid theirs? Check with your treasurer!) and the legacy of resources from closed churches. The CDCES gives loans for building improvements and grants for new ministry. Check it out by [clicking here!](#) CDCES is also the source for the New Places for New People micro-grants given to each Cascadia church and ministry setting. If you haven't heard about that yet, ask your lay member to Annual Conference!

**In the afternoon there will be an event for clergy and laity on engaging in dynamic ministry in our communities!**

*More details coming soon!*

**Save the Date!!  
September 22, 2018**

### MY FORGETTER

*My forgetter's getting better  
But my rememberer is broke  
To you that may seem funny  
But, to me, that is no joke*

*For when I'm "here" I'm wondering  
If I really should be "there"  
And, when I try to think it through,  
I haven't got a prayer!*

*Oft times I walk into a room,  
Say, "What am I here for?"  
I rack my brain, but all in vain  
A zero is my score.*

*At times I put something away  
Where it is safe, but, Gee!  
The person it is safest from  
Is, generally, me!*

*When shopping I may see someone,  
Say "Hi" and have a chat,  
Then, when the person walks away  
I ask myself, "Who was that?"*

*Yes, my forgetter's getting better  
While my rememberer is broke,  
And it's driving me plumb crazy  
And that isn't any joke.*

*(Courtesy of "Mikey's Funnies")*

## Four Marks of the Next Methodism

By David Watson

Let's face it: no one really knows what is going to happen at The United Methodist Church's called General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019. Division? Restructuring? Fragmentation? Slow demise? Despite widespread conjecture and one or two wild conspiracy theories, your guess is as good as mine.

The Wesleyan movement, however, is much larger than the UM Church. At its core this movement is dynamic, revivalistic, and evangelistic, and in many places in the world Wesleyan and Methodist communities are in the midst of revival.

I believe we can have revival here, too. Yes, even in the United States, we can have revival. Were this to happen, I believe it would involve the following four characteristics.

### **1. The Next Methodism will feed the hungry, physically and spiritually.**

*Physically* – One of the great things about the Methodist movement is that we are socially concerned. Historically we've been deeply committed to providing for people in need. This is a strength of our tradition that, whatever happens next, we should continue.

Right belief is important, but it is not enough.

As Wesley put it, one can be as orthodox as the devil, and just as much a stranger as he to the true religion of the heart.



*Spiritually* – People are spiritually hungry, too. The problem is that they just don't know it. Sometimes you hear people ask why revival tends to happen among the poor, rather than the well off. The reason is that the well off can afford enough "stuff" to

fool themselves into thinking they're okay. People in our culture are empty inside and mired in sin, and they simply don't know it because they have enough stuff in their lives to numb the pain. What they're hungry for is Jesus. They may not know it, but Jesus is the only one who can satisfy them.

### **2. The Next Methodism will be Spirit-filled.**

Yes, some people do break out in hives at the mere mention of "Spirit-filled" or "charismatic" Christianity. The term "charismatic," however, simply means that God gives us gifts. These gifts are described for us in Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. We shouldn't be surprised if God gives us these gifts both in worship and the broader life of the church. In fact, we should expect them.

For many Christians today, God is basically a construct. "God" is a concept that gives weight to our ethical claims and our exhortations to seek social justice. The idea of God as an agent, though, simply does no heavy lifting.

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There is no sense of real expectation associated with prayer. The biblical God, so intricately involved in the everyday lives of men and women, is not taken seriously. The loss of the biblical God is a tremendous loss indeed.

The Next Methodism will recover the idea of God as an agent, a giver of gifts who is actively involved in our lives. I truly believe that the next generation will not be converted by plausible words of wisdom, but by a demonstration of the Spirit and power. God is going to have to show up, and I believe God will do this if we ask in faith.

### **3. The Next Methodism will be rooted in Scripture.**

There was a reason John Wesley and his friends at Oxford were derisively called “Bible moths” (among other things). They were rigorously committed to reading, internalizing, and living out the words of Scripture.

The Bible is the one reliable guide that we have to lead us into salvation. There are things we could derive about God just by observing the world around us. For example, we might derive that God is creative and desires order. We might reason from this that God is good. But we wouldn’t know, for example, that “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16). Likewise, we would be unlikely to derive on our own Christ’s command to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors (Matt 5:44) or that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must become like a child (Mark 10:15). Through Scripture God reveals to us things we would

never know otherwise. Most importantly, Scripture tells us the story of salvation beginning with creation, continuing through the children of Abraham, and brought to fulfillment in Jesus.

There’s one more reason, however, to pay closer attention to Scripture: You can have a revival without attention to Scripture, but it won’t last, and it will soon veer off course. Or, to paraphrase Bill Johnson, biblical illiteracy in a generation seeking miracles will make us vulnerable to false signs and wonders.

### **4. The Next Methodism will be truly Wesleyan.**

A couple of years ago I read Rod Dreher’s *The Benedict Option*. Its basic premise is that the culture has turned against us as Christians. We need to retreat and form tightly knit communities that will serve as arks in which we can ride out the flood of neo-paganism in Western culture. This is the best hope we have of preserving a Christian identity in the midst of a hostile world.

After I finished it, though, I thought, *What if John Wesley had done that?* Thankfully, he didn’t. In fact, he did the opposite. He preached in the fields and where anyone would listen. He went into the places where he knew people were hostile to him. He didn’t retreat from the culture. He confronted it. And in the midst of all this, he led a revival that swept through England and eventually became a global movement.

I don’t want the Benedict Option. I want the Wesley Option: high-octane evangelism with a

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deep commitment to Scripture and an emphasis on sanctification and social holiness.

We will have to get more serious about theology if we are to be truly Wesleyan. Too often United Methodists have substituted pragmatism for theology. We will have to recover our doctrinal heritage. We will have to recover elements of our liturgical heritage. We will have to double down on our sacramental life. Our theology of sanctification holds that God is present and active amidst the gathered community of faith, and this is not something we can conjure up on the cheap. Community matters.

This essay isn't just about the UM Church. It is about something much bigger, more powerful, and more important. Institutions can be helpful, but a movement will change people's lives. That's what I want to be part of—a movement, or, more precisely, a move of God.

Come Holy Spirit.

*Dr. David Watson is Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of New Testament at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He is also a member of the Wesleyan Covenant Association Council. This article is an abbreviated version of Dr. Watson's article that originally appeared on his website.*



A teacher was finishing up a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity. "Where would we be today," she asked, "if no one had ever been curious?"

One child quietly spoke up from the back of the room. "Still in the Garden of Eden?"

(Courtesy of "Mikey's Funnies")

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### PASTOR MARGOT'S OFFICE HOURS

#### Banks Community UMC

Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. - noon  
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday - 10:00 a.m. - noon  
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

#### Cornelius UMC

Monday - 10:00 a.m. - noon  
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. - noon  
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(At all hours, and any day Sunday through Thursday, please use her cell phone number.) She is also available for urgent or emergency matters at all times via cell.

### **BANKS TELLER**

All submissions to the *Banks Teller* are **DUE BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH** preceding the month you wish it to run. The *Banks Teller* is published every two months.