

Brainstorming Messages & Scripture May 25 - July 27, 2014

Monday May 12, 2014

Brad and Laura Dean's house

6:00 pm Cookout/Potluck Dinner

7:00-9:00 pm Brainstorming for Worship



Brad and Laura will be grilling something delicious. Please bring a dish to pass. **Weather permitting, we will eat outside starting at 6:00 pm; please dress accordingly.** We will move inside for the meeting from 7:00-9:00 pm.

RSVP's are helpful but not mandatory. Sign up at church or contact Karen Booth or Brad or Laura Dean.

Please read the scripture and message synopses before we gather. This get together may be a little unusual in that we are not looking at doing a series of messages on one topic; we have several guest speakers; and will be in the midst of a pastoral change. Watch the bulletins and website. We hope to have information available for June 1, 22, and 29 soon.

May 25, 2014: "God's Dependents"

6th Sunday of Easter

Synopsis: What do our lives look like when we are fully dependent on God? Is this even possible in a culture that so values independence?

Metaphor/visuals: Declaration of Dependence. Baby's hand held within the father's hand. "In God We Trust" motto from US currency.

Media possibility: "Fourth of July." Cost: \$17.00. Length: 2:14. Synopsis: The 4th of July! Free from tyranny. Dependent on God. A joyous celebration of freedom and devotion. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/33218/4th-of-july>.

Inclusive activity: Have members sign a large "Declaration of Dependence."

Music suggestions: 700 Abide with Me; 152 I Sing the Almighty Power of God; 141 Children of the Heavenly Father

Scripture: Acts 17:29-31 (Contemporary English Version)

²⁹Since we are God's children, we must not think that he is like an idol made out of gold or silver or stone. He isn't like anything that humans have thought up and made.

³⁰In the past, God forgave all this because people did not know what they were doing. But now he says that everyone everywhere must turn to him. ³¹He has set a day when he will judge the world's people with fairness. And he has chosen the man Jesus to do the judging for him. God has given proof of this to all of us by raising Jesus from death.

Scripture: John 14:15-21 (Contemporary English Version)

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world's people with fairness. And he has chosen the man Jesus to do the judging for him. God has given proof of this to all of us by raising Jesus from death.

June 1, 2014: Guest Speaker, Gary Step

7th Sunday of Easter

June 8, 2014: "Under the Influence"

Pentecost

Synopsis: Whereas spectators at the Day of Pentecost thought that the disciples were under the influence of alcohol, instead they were under the influence of the Holy Spirit. What does that way of being "under the influence" look like in the church? Why is that kind of behavior so essential?

Metaphor/visuals: Flames (Many options can be found on Pinterest)

Media possibilities:

- "Pentecost" from TWOTP. Length: 1:39. Cost: We own it. Not sure if we used it. Synopsis: Meditation. "In the last days I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons..." Preview it at <http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/pentecost>.
- "Pentecost" from Faith Visuals. Length: 2:55. Cost: We own it. Last used on 5/31/09. Synopsis: Dramatic reading. Preview it at <http://media.preachingtoday.com/mini-movies/12727/Pentecost>.

Music suggestions: 539 O Spirit of the Living God; 2117 Spirit of God; 333 I'm Goin' a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing

Scripture: Acts 2:1-12 (The Message)

¹When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

²Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. ³Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, ⁴and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

⁵There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world.

⁶When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. ⁷They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans?" ⁸How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?

⁹Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs!

"They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

¹²Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?"

¹³Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

PETER SPEAKS UP

¹⁴That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. ¹⁵These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

¹⁷"In the Last Days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams. ⁸When

the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit On those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy. ¹⁹I'll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, Blood and fire and billowing smoke, ²⁰the sun turning black and the moon blood-red, Before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvelous; ²¹And whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved."

June 15, 2014: "Commissioned for the Mission"

Trinity Sunday

Synopsis: Jesus' Great Commission reminds us of the importance of "Making Disciples for the Transformation of the World," the vision of our denomination.

Metaphor/visuals: UMC cross and flame. Campaign button. TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

Media possibilities:

- "Make Disciples." Length: 2:07. Cost: \$20. Synopsis: We all have heard the Great Commission, right? But have you heard it like this? This simple and creative telling emphasizes the importance of not only going but of also multiplying ourselves and making disciples. When we invest in others it has an exponential effect. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/53010/make-disciples>.
- "Therefore Go." Length: 1:46. Cost: \$19.98. Synopsis: Close out your worship service by reminding your congregation of the church's mission given by Jesus himself. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/56032/therefore-go-closing-benediction>.
- "The Missional Life." Length: 2:32. Cost: \$15.00. Synopsis: The Missional Life is the essence of our life-pursuit as Christians, i.e., to live and share Christ with others for the glory of God.

Music suggestions: 571 Go, Make of All Disciples; 2239 Go Ye, Go Ye into the World; 2241 The Spirit Sends Us Firth to Serve

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 (The Message)

¹⁶Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. ¹⁷The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about *worship*, about risking themselves totally.

¹⁸Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: ¹⁹Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ²⁰Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

June 22, 2014: Guest Speaker, TBD

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

June 29, 2014: Guest Speaker, TBD

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

July 6, 2014: "Life in the Spirit: Called and Welcomed"

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Synopsis: The Holy Spirit is God's presence with us. We experience God's presence in many ways through the power of the Spirit in our lives. The sacraments are one example. As we begin a journey together in ministry, we remember our baptism and our call to ministry, and we remember that Jesus is the one who bring us together as welcomed friends around the table.

Metaphor/visuals: Baptismal font or tabletop fountain where flowing water could be heard. Blue fabric flowing from the altar.

Media possibility: “The Holy Spirit --- Don’t Forget About It!” Length: 3:12. Cost: \$20.00. Synopsis: We really like to focus on Jesus and we really like to talk about God and so sometimes the Holy spirit gets a bad rap. The Trinity doesn’t work without the Spirit and so this video re-energizes our understanding of what the Spirit does and how it works. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/46874/the-holy-spirit-dont-forget-about-it>.

Music suggestions:

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16 (Today’s New International Version)

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.”

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?

¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

July 13, 2014: “Life in the Spirit: Gifted”

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Synopsis: Not every person has all of the spiritual gifts, but all of the gifts are present in the Body of Christ. All of the gifts are present in every local church. What would it look like if we discovered, opened, unwrapped them in our spiritual lives and used them “for the common good”? For the sake of Jesus Christ and our mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world? For the United Methodist Church? For the ministry of LHUMC?

Metaphor/visuals: Wrapped gifts, to be kept up during the series, adding more each week and/or unwrapping one each week.

Media possibilities: These two videos could be used at different points in the series.

- “Everyone Has Gifts.” Length: 2:20. Cost: \$17.00. Synopsis: A fast-paced energetic video reminding people that regardless of how we feel, the Bible says that we’ve all got gifts, they are all important, and it’s all for the glory of God. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/14982/everyone-has-gifts>
- “Gifts in a Closet.” Length: 2:45. Cost: \$15.00. Synopsis: Have you ever wondered what would happen if we treated all our gifts the way we do our spiritual gifts? God picks all our

gifts out with the utmost care, and often times we never even look at them. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/19882/gifts-in-a-closet>.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (Today's New International Version)

¹Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

July 20, 2014: "Life in the Spirit: Your Gifts Matter"

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Synopsis: See July 13.

Metaphor/visuals: Unity/diversity.

Media possibilities: See July 13

Music suggestions:

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (Today's New International Version)

¹²Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²²On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for

each other. ²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

July 27, 2014: "The Greatest Gift"

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Synopsis: See July 13.

Metaphor/visuals: Unity/diversity.

Media possibilities:

Music suggestions:

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Today's New International Version)

¹If I speak in human or angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹²For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.