



# Manito COMMUNITY

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# UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST EDITION •

• OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPEN DOORS

• SEPTEMBER 2017

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear CUMC,

Psalm 19 begins, "The Heavens declare the glory of God; the sky proclaims its builder's craft." Did you get a chance to view the solar eclipse last month? There was so much discussion about this special event that seemed to positively unite many people. I had the opportunity to view the eclipse from southern Illinois within the band of totality and was glad to experience such a rare treat. I was emotionally moved by the event and was reminded of our Maker's creative mind and careful hands. As the Psalmist tells us, when we consider God's handiwork we are reminded of God's glory. We can marvel that God cares about us so much to share his creation. The solar eclipse also reminded me of a hymn that beautifully describes our awe:

### How Bright the Dawn, the Sun's First Ray

How bright the dawn, the sun's first ray  
that marks the end of night!

For all day long, each time we pray  
God sends more love and light.

From dawn to dusk praise God in song,  
tell all that God has done:

God gives us breath and makes us strong  
and warms the earth with sun.

God comes in Christ to show us how  
we each can day by day

love one another here and now  
and live the words we pray.

-Tom Troeger

May God's creation inspire you to live and love this month with wonder and joy.

Pastor Greg



*"Do all the good you can.  
By all the means you can.  
In all the ways you can.  
In all the places you can.  
At all the times you can.  
To all the people you can.  
As long as ever you can."  
John Wesley*

## Vision

TO PROVIDE SPACE AND OPPORTUNITY  
FOR ALL GOD'S  
CHILDREN TO EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE  
AND MATURE BY HIS GRACE.

## Mission

WE WILL PARTNER WITH THE HOLY  
SPIRIT IN WORSHIP, PRAYER,  
STUDY, SERVING AND SHARING  
GOD'S LOVE WITH OTHERS



## Bauer Kellan Bennett

This little guy decided he didn't want to wait until next week to be born so today at 1:59AM Bauer Kellan Bennett made an appearance. He weighed in at 7#12oz and is 19 1/2" long with a head of hair on him that would make Wayne Newton jealous. Mom and baby have been having a wonderful day.

## <>< ><> <>< ><> <>< ><> <>< ><> <>< ><> SOMEBODY SAID

Somebody said it takes about six weeks to get back to normal after you've had a baby ...somebody doesn't know that once you're a mother, "normal" is history.

Somebody said you learn how to be a mother by instinct...somebody never took a three-year-old shopping. Somebody said being a mother is boring...somebody never rode in a car driven by a teenager with a driver's permit.

Somebody said if you're a "good" mother, your child will "turn out good"...somebody thinks a child comes with directions and a guarantee.

Somebody said "good" mothers never raise their voices...somebody never came out the back door just in time to see her child hit a golf ball through the neighbor's kitchen window.

Somebody said you don't need an education to be a mother...somebody never helped a fourth grader with his math.

Somebody said you can't love the fifth child as much as you love the first...somebody doesn't have five children.

Somebody said a mother can find all the answers to her child-rearing questions in the books...somebody never had a child stuff beans up his nose or in his ears.

Somebody said the hardest part of being a mother is labor and delivery...somebody never watched her "baby" get on the bus for the first day of kindergarten or on a plane headed for military "boot camp."








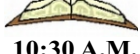



Somebody said a mother can do her job with her eyes closed and one hand tied behind her back...somebody never organized seven giggling Brownies to sell cookies.

Somebody said a mother can stop worrying after her child gets married...somebody doesn't know that marriage adds a new son or daughter-in-law to a mother's heartstrings.

Somebody said a mother's job is done when her last child leaves home...somebody never had grandchildren.

Somebody said your mother knows you love her, so you don't need to tell her...somebody ISN'T A MOTHER!

SEPTEMBER 2017

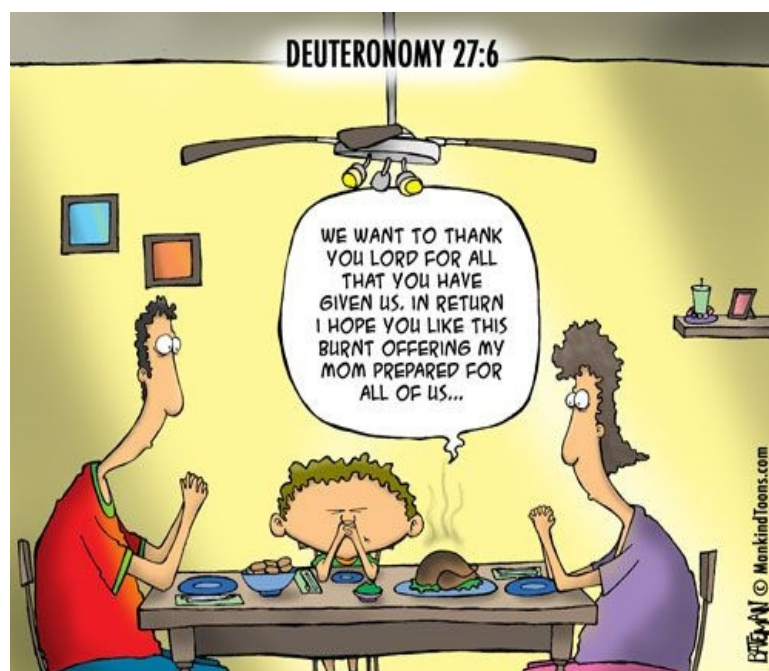
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 National Cherry Popover Day	2 VJ Day
3  Sunday School 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00	4 Labor Day	5 Trustee's Meeting 6:00 P.M.	6 Bible Study  10:30 A.M.	7 Bible Study  6:30 P.M.	8 International Literacy Day	9 Teddy Bear Day
10  Sunday School 9:00 Worship- 10:00	11 Make Your Bed Day	12 Ad Council 6:00 P.M.	13 Bible Study  10:30 A.M.	14 Bible Study  6:30 P.M.	15 Felt Hat Day	16 National PlayDoh Day
17  Sunday School 9:00 Worship- 10:00	18 National Cheeseburger Day	19 FMF Meeting 6:30 P.M.	20 Bible Study  10:30 A.M.	21 Bible Study  6:30 P.M.	22 Elephant Appreciation Day	23 International Rabbit Day
24  Sunday School 9:00 Worship- 10:00	25 National Comic Book Day	26 Johnny Appleseed Day	27 Bible Study  10:30 A.M.	28 Ask A Stupid Question Day	29 Confucious Day	30 National Mud Pack Day
September is Better Breakfast and Self Improvement Month						



- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 - Kirk Woiwode        | 12 - John Willett  |
| 2 - Bonnie Meeker       | 14 - Bob Parrish   |
| 4 - Cuyler Thomas       | 19 - Ed Buck       |
| 5 - Tammy Thompson      | 22 - Alexa Kerley  |
| 9 - Brandi Bailey       | 24 - Sara Hayden   |
| 10 - Jill Eads          | 24 - Marvin Quick  |
| 10 - Arianna Luckring   | 28 - Brian Frank   |
| 11 - Andy Messerschmidt | 30 - Diane VanDyke |
| 11 - Pat Smith          | 30 - Ron Armbrust  |



- 2- Lee & Billie Garman  
11 - Shad & Susan Messman  
12 - Marvin & Peggy Quick



# OBITUARY: THE SAD PASSING OF COMMON SENSE

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting (adults, not children, are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned, but overbearing, regulations were set in place.

Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teenagers suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition. Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they had themselves failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer paracetamol, sun lotion or plaster to a pupil, but could not inform the parents when a pupil became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home, but the burglar could sue you for assault because you protected yourself and your own.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else is to Blame, and I'm A Victim. Not many attended his funeral because so few realised that he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Author Unknown



Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?

A: Psalms 117

perfect will for our lives?

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

A: Psalms 119

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

Q: Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?

A: Psalms 118

Psalms 118:8

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188.

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."  
Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the center of it)?

Q: What is the center verse in the Bible?

A: Psalms 118:8

When things get tough, always remember...

Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it  
!!

Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's

**Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations.**

A woman named Emily renewing her driver's licence at the Transport office was asked by the clerk to state her occupation. She hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself. "What I mean is," explained the clerk, "do you have a job, or are you just a ...?" "Of course I have a job," snapped Emily. "I'm a Mum." "We don't list 'Mum' as an occupation... 'housewife' covers it," said the clerk emphatically.

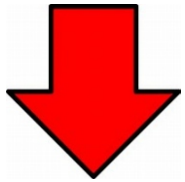
I forgot all about her story until one day I found myself in the same situation, this time at our local police station. The Clerk was obviously a career woman, poised, efficient, and possessed of a high-sounding title like, "Official Interrogator" or "Town Registrar." "What is your occupation?" she probed. What made me say it, I do not know...

The words simply popped out. "I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations." The clerk paused, pen frozen in midair, and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly, emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pronouncement was written in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire!

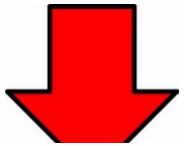
"Might I ask," said the clerk with new interest, "just what you do in your field?" Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, "I have a continuing programme of research, (what mother doesn't), in the laboratory and in the field, (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Masters, (the whole family), and already have four credits, (all daughters). Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (any mother care to disagree.?) and I often work 14 hours a day, (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are more of a satisfaction rather than just money." There was an increasing note of respect in the girl's voice as she completed the form, stood up, and personally ushered me to the door.

When I got home, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants -ages 10, 7, and 3. Upstairs, I could hear our new experimental model, (a 6-month-old baby), in the child-development programme, testing out a new vocal pattern. I felt I had triumphed over bureaucracy! And I had gone on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than "just another Mum." Motherhood... What a glorious career! Especially when there's a title on the door.

Does this make grandmothers "Senior Research Associates in the field of Child Development and Human Relations", and great grandmothers "Executive Senior Research Associates"??? I think so!!! I also think it makes Aunts "Associate Research Assistants".



# POPCORN FESTIVAL EVENTS!!



# Nos vemos en la Festival de las palomitas de maíz

**"See you at the Popcorn Festival"**







# 2017 FUN DAY





# Mark Your Calendar

Don't sit on the sidelines...Get involved!



Sunday, October 8  
After Church  
\$10<sup>00</sup>

Advance ticket sales only • No tickets sold at door



**THE GIBSON GIRLS**  
Coming in October



**MARK SCHULTZ**

## IN CONCERT

Bethany Baptist Church • 7422 Heinz Lane  
Edwards IL

**SEPTEMBER 14 • 7:00 p.m.**

OPEN SEATING - \$25<sup>00</sup> PER PERSON

Funds raised by ticket sales will benefit the Unity  
Point Health Pekin Memorial Hospital Team  
going to Liberia in November 2017

FOR TICKETS  
PLEASE CONTACT:

**MARSHA WHITEHOUSE**  
309-267-2768 & LEAVE MESSAGE

# JUST FOR LAFFS

In Sunday School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, 'Johnny what is the matter?' Little Johnny responded, 'I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife'

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A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

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Many years ago, a wealthy man went duck hunting with a hired hand named Sam. They took a horse and carriage, and along the way a rim came off one of the wheels. As Sam hammered it back on, he accidentally hit his finger. Instantly he let go with some bad words. He quickly fell to his knees, asking God's forgiveness. "Lord, it's difficult at times to live the Christian life", he prayed. "Sam" said the man, "I know you're a Christian, but tell me why you struggle so, I'm an atheist, and I don't have problems like that."

Sam didn't know what to say. Just then two ducks flew overhead. The man raised his gun and two shots rang out. "Leave the dead one and go after that wounded bird!" he shouted. Sam pointed at the duck that was fluttering desperately to escape and said, "I've got an answer for you now, Boss. You said my Christianity isn't any good because I have to struggle so. Well, I'm the wounded duck and struggle to get away from the devil. But you Boss, you're the dead duck!"

Struggle is one evidence of God's work in our lives Forgiveness of sin is available, so don't despair. Remember, dead ducks don't flutter.

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A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'

~~~~~



At certain times in life we may feel insignificant and useless. Surrounded by people with greater talent than ours, we are tempted in our weak moments just to settle back and let somebody else do the work. We reason that what we have to offer won't make much difference anyway. We forget the truth suggested by our Lord's use of five loaves and two small fish to feed a multitude ([John 6:1-14](#)).

Each of us has something important to offer in His service.

Sir Michael Costa was conducting a rehearsal in which the orchestra was joined by a great chorus. About halfway through the session, with trumpets blaring, drums rolling, and violins singing their rich melody, the piccolo player muttered to himself, "What good am I doing? I might just as well not be playing. Nobody can hear me anyway." So he kept the instrument to his mouth, but he made no sound. Within moments, the conductor cried, "Stop! Stop! Where's the piccolo?" It was missed by the ear of the most important person of all.

It's much the same way with the use of our abilities for the Lord. Whether our talent is great or small, the performance isn't complete until we do our best with what we have.

The Master needs what you have to offer No matter if you think it's small. His work on earth is done through His children So give Him your best, give your all.