

June 10, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

Sunday was Pentecost Sunday, and in worship at Huntley United Methodist Church we celebrated this special day that commemorates the birth of the Christian Church. Forty days after Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven, his followers were together praying and waiting for the gift of power, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus had promised them. As they prayed, the Holy Spirit came roaring down and filled the whole house. It appeared as flames of fire above the heads of those present.

Suddenly these ordinary, uneducated disciples were able to speak in multiple languages and tell the wonders of God to the diverse crowd of people who had gathered around them. But the power of the Holy Spirit wasn't just manifested in roaring wind and flames of fire and preaching in other languages. It also resulted in great courage and love and unity and selflessness among the disciples.

Jesus' disciples created a new kind of gathering, one that had never been seen before consisting of people from every race and social class, men and women, slaves and slave owners. And all these people worshiped side-by-side and shared all they had with the poorer believers. Their gatherings were marked by overflowing praise and radical love for one another. On the Day of Pentecost, God created a new and awesome spiritual family, the Church.

The Church is at its best when it is open and inviting to all – when it consists of people from every race and social class, men and women, conservative and progressive, gay and straight, young and old, employers and employees, those still working and those who are retired. The Church was created for all God's children. There have always been those who would limit who could be part of our fellowship, but whenever someone or some group has been excluded, it has been to the detriment of the Church. The bottom line is that we are always better together, when we can learn from one another, and when we can have compassion for one another, acknowledging our different journeys that have brought us to this special place called the Church.

Mountain Sky Annual Conference will meet for its annual conference this coming week, June 13-16, 2019 in Billings, MT. Volunteers are still needed to help with ushering and other duties. If you can help, please contact Pastor Gary.

Huntley United Methodist Church is planning a work day in the community on Saturday, June 29th. We will meet at Huntley Project Museum and do several projects, including scraping and painting, general cleaning, and some other related projects. We will plan to work from 8:00 a.m. till noon or a little after. Men and women are encouraged to participate. Please come and be a part of this community service project of Huntley United Methodist Church.

See you in worship,
Pastor Gary Geiman