
From Pastor Jayneann's Pen

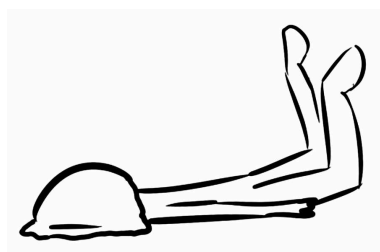
Pastor Jayneann McIntosh

April 2018

A number of you stopped me last month to say you were praying for me and that you appreciated my sharing this need. Thank you for praying!

Onto another topic... In other churches that I've served, people would sometimes come up to me and explain why they hadn't been in church in a while. If it was about an illness, surgery or family concerns, I was all ears. But when they were sharing about all their other Sunday morning activities or family members they'd visited I'd laugh and say, "I'm not the worship police." Then they'd laugh with me.

Lately though I've wondered if I had this wrong – not that I need to police, but maybe people need me to help them be accountable. I think of my own efforts to make time for exercise or to eat healthy (often more like hopes than efforts) . When I'm not pastoring, I can be that withdrawn person who doesn't want to trouble anyone with my business (or to have them see how badly I'm doing). But I think I'd do better if I knew someone might ask, "How's it going?" about my practices and really expect an answer.



No one wants to have the world see their mistakes; that's part of the reason stories that show just that are so popular.

We get how bad it is; we feel it and it's terrible. Yet when the protagonist emerges from the other side of the mess, we believe we might make it as well. Think of Scarlett O'Hara or

Dumbo. (If a flying elephant can save the circus and get his mother out of captivity, what do you suppose we can do?)

I think we've chased this rabbit down the hole long enough, so I'll just say that if you're in a meeting or we meet in town somewhere and I say, "See you Sunday," it may be because I know you come every Sunday or it might be because I want you to know I care and that your church cares. We want to see you and say, "Hi." We want you to experience the same holy energy we feel – not always but often enough that we keep coming back.

April's a good time to look for that energy. Easter is April 1st. It's also Communion Sunday (and April Fools Day. Did you know that through the centuries, churches have celebrated the great joke that God played on death through the resurrection with jokes and merrymaking on the Sunday after Easter? Maybe we'll do that another year.)

This year on April Sundays, we'll look at some of life's hardest things. I asked my Facebook friends, looked at a couple lists and have enough hard things for months of sermons.

On Wednesdays at 5 p.m. we'll take a peak at what United Methodism is all about, how it started and who started it, ask ourselves and each other what it is about the UMC that resonates with us, and what might be ahead for us as a denomination.

You're welcome to join us anytime. What better way to thank God for all the gifts in your life?

See You Sunday!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jaymann".