

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

August 2013



Pastor Daniel Mejia

I pray that as this summer continues to straddle along with its lazy schedules and humid days that you have found the time to renew, relax, and connect deeper in your relationship with God and the people around you. I'm finding myself too looking for new insights, new conversations, new opportunities that will help me grow. One of those paths led me again to an article by Pastor Eric Atcheson that serves as a companion to last month's list of 11 things congregations wished their pastors said more by Rachel Held Evans. Pastor Atcheson named his article, "10 things pastors wish their congregations said more often." I hope pastor Atcheson's article will help you see your role at Emmanuel with new eyes.

1. How can I be praying for you?

I do a lot of praying with people and for people while rarely asking for prayer in return. But I definitely need prayer in return, because I am not Super-Pastor. Some days, I barely even feel like an ordinary, un-super pastor, because on my own, I am simply a

very, very weak man.

2. I'm sorry. I was wrong. Please forgive me.

This is a direct copy-and-paste of Rachel's own #2 item, because it definitely fits for us as well. Pastors have to withstand a lot of second-guessing and--in healthier situations--ad hominem criticisms, but we are called upon to turn the other cheek rather than repaying meanness for meanness.

3. Enjoy your time away.

For pastors, vacation time is sacrosanct and vital to our well-being, but I have had to engage in educational efforts to show why my vacation time (of which I get four weeks per year) is so vital, so that I might stop being asked, "How come you get so much time off? I only see you once a week!"

4. Let's give it a try.

I think that while pastors may have a very hard time saying "no" to their congregants, congregations can be quite skilled at saying "no" to their pastor and their pastor's ideas. It doesn't even have to be a "yes"--just agreeing to give something the old college try is often enough.

5. Here's what I liked/didn't like about your sermon today...

Don't get me wrong, I'll take the "good sermon today, preacher" compliments. But you know why we love it when you engage us on the substance of what we said, even

if you disagree with us? It shows that you were listening, and it reminds us that our preaching and teaching is valued by you.

6. How can I help?

A lot of our volunteers have set tasks that they do--and do well--at our church. And I love that--reliability is a huge gift in the church. But I also love it when someone comes to me, willing to help out wherever they can, because it shows they care about the church's needs, whatever they might be.

7. Is everything okay?

Part of serving a smaller congregation means that my congregants and I grow extremely familiar with one another, and many of them can tell if I didn't bring my A-game that day. Showing concern for me first--rather than reaching immediately for criticism--means an awful, awful lot to me.

8. Don't stop being yourself.

I am lucky to serve a church that not only doesn't mind that their pastor enjoys scotch, plays poker, and is a loudmouth Kansas City sports fan--they embrace it, even if a stereotypical pastor would not drink or gamble. Quite simply, I am affirmed for who I am. They affirm Eric, not just "Pastor Eric."

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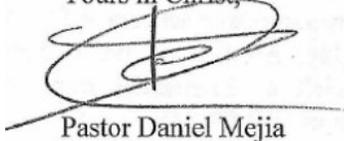
9. Whenever you can make it is fine.

Pastors get a lot of invites to a lot of family events in the church--and I love going to such events, but when my schedule begins to crowd up, please do not be offended if I am only able to make a token appearance, or am running late. It doesn't mean that I, or God, loves you any less.

10. Be not afraid!

I saved the biggest (for me) for last--quite simply, I am sometimes afraid to try things and risk either failing or upsetting church matriarchs/patriarchs. But risk is a necessary dimension of ministering in the name of Jesus Christ, and pastors today cannot afford to be risk-averse!

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Daniel Mejia

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sky and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away. --Luke 21:33

Summer is nearing its end, and as autumn approaches, in Emmanuel UMC's education program we are making plans for the beginning of the school year.

The beginning of a new year is an opportunity for new spiritual knowledge and growth. Our Christian education program has great volunteer leaders and great student participants, but the best thing about EUMC Christian education is doing it in fellowship with one another.

The EUMC Christian education program is *your* program. What do you seek from it? In August, the Sunday education team will be planning for autumn classes, and we welcome your thoughts for classes and curricula. My phone number is 301.595.8963, my email is tod-dreizel@verizon.net, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings,
Todd Reitzel



**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

Faithful Readers Book Group

For our last meeting before the summer, there were so many ideas discussed about time, how it's changed, how we use it, our satisfaction, loss, yearning, etc....for time.

'The Time Keeper' by Mitch Albom had a mixed review regarding the way he wrote both in reality and in fantasy to explain this concept. As Christians, the question posed for us all: "What will we do with our extra time that makes our lives a contribution to our family, friends, community, nation, world?"

We will meet again in October to continue reading 4 more books for next year! Our photo honors all in our group who have contributed and continue to make us think about the books we read and how they influence our thoughts and lives!



Reception for Newlywed Pastors Daniel & Michelle at Emmanuel United Methodist Church on Sunday, July 14



A reception for newlyweds Daniel & Michelle Mejia was held at the church starting at 1 pm on Sunday, July 14.

About 70 congregants shared good food and camaraderie as members rose to congratulate the happy couple and offer toasts to their good health and happiness in their marriage.

Musical entertainment was provided by David Butterfield, who sang original songs and accompanied himself on the guitar.

Many members worked behind the scenes to make it a very joyous and memorable occasion. Thanks are expressed to them, as we wish Daniel & Michelle the very best.



Assistant Pastor Nickie Moreno & Christian Howard Married

Nickie Moreno & Christian Howard were married on June 9, this year.

The church held a rousing reception for the newlyweds on Sunday, June 30.

As you know, Nickie serves as Assistant Pastor of Emmanuel.

Christian is in a program at George Mason University leading to a PhD in Criminology. He looks forward to going into the field of education.

We wish the happy couple good fortune and God's blessings.

Vacation Bible School

Emmanuel United Methodist Church hosted another successful Vacation Bible School during the week of 15-19 July. There were approximately 75-100 attendees, both adults and children, each evening who gathered together to make friends, sing, act and study the bible. The program has been led by Todd Reitzel and an army of volunteers for the last few years and attendance has grown each time. This photo shows some of the happy participants with Pastor Daniel.



USHER TRAINING

Earlier this year the Worship committee advertised the need for more ushers. The response was less than enthusiastic, even though the visual pleas seen on the sanctuary screens and narthex monitor appeared (at least to the committee) quite compelling.

Perhaps you thought, "I don't want to be tied down; Ushering would mess with my Sunday activities; I don't know how to usher; What do I have to do?; Would I have to dress in a special way?; They surely don't want women and kids to usher; I'm new to this congregation and I would feel uncomfortable being an usher." Ah!

All these issues and more will be addressed at a training session on Saturday, August 3, at 10 a.m. led by our well-versed and experienced Ted Ladd, Karl Norris, Rogers Beasley and Rick Zerbe. You will then become a part of a very important group that plays a major role in promoting a friendly and welcoming ambiance at Emmanuel UMC. Please come! Being an usher can be very rewarding.



*This is a blog piece that Sarah Elliott shared with me and I thought it was interesting and wanted to share it with others. You can find it on the web at <http://revdsky.blogspot.com/>
~Rick Bergmann*

Things for United Methodist Laity to Unlearn From a Layperson's P.O.V.

To all of my fellow laity: We have been highly critical of the clergy for a number of years now. We have been very vocal about issues with those who serve our local congregations, many valid concerns, and some unrealistic demands. Though the Church has been slow to respond to the frustration, in recent years there has been a move on the part of the leadership to look at education, pastoral care and the lack of vision that has disconnected the local church from the community. The lack of discipleship in the local church is reaching critical mass, and the lack of leadership from the clergy is being discussed on every level.

That's all great news, and important for a move to health and vitality. It is just half of the picture. It is time we do our own inventory and look at the things we need to unlearn.

This is my short list:

1. While our church leaders, Pastor, church staff, are responsible to give vision, direction and guidance, they are not charged with keeping us happy. We are equally called to service in the Body of Christ, not only to be served. We are partner in ministry, not consumers. The staff cannot fulfill their responsibilities in outreach to the community if they are forever holding our hands, listening to our laundry lists of complaints about tem-

perature, sermon topic and new hymns we have never sung before. It's time we grow up, take responsibility for our own part of the Kingdom and go to work alongside our church leaders, as we are gifted and called to do. We were ordained in our baptism after all, not to every role, but to a role.

2. The church building does not belong to us; it is an asset for ministry. Our functions are important, and fellowship as believers is essential, but they are not the sole purpose of the building. Inviting the community to see the building as a great meeting place will connect us with people who would never cross the threshold for a Bible study or a worship service. Groups who find a home in one of our classrooms may find a home in our church family, particularly if we happen to be in the building when they come and extend hospitality. We cannot lock the doors during the week in order to keep the building in outstanding condition and the expenses down and think this is a good decision for the life of our church. It will work for as long as we are here to pay the bills, then one day one of us will be the last one to turn out the light.

3. Worship on Sunday is not entertainment, and we are not the audience. Worship is a time for us to gather, hear God's word, get filled up, and go in the power of the Spirit to change the world. If you go home and nothing changes, in you or in your world, it's time to stop and consider where you are disconnecting. Where there is life, there is growth. If all of your God stories are from years ago, it might be time to take your spiritual pulse.

4. There are a lot more of us (laity) than there are of them (clergy). Why

did we ever decide sharing the Gospel was only for the 'professionals'? Who has the greatest opportunity to share the love of God with the community? We do! What is the best way to share your faith with others? Live it, all the time, in all of the places you go. Be the love of God the world is hungry for, offer grace and mercy, be the disciple you would like others to become. In football terminology, most plays work better if the team huddles up, hears the call and plays their position. We like to huddle up, hear the call and go sit in the stand to see how it goes. Let's get on the field, people.

Real change, deep change, begins one person at a time. We have to do the hard work of moving from consumer to partner, give up rights and pick up our responsibilities, desire that others develop deep relationships with Jesus Christ enough to surrender being the center of the church. Growing up in grace means we are so secure in our identities as children of God and people of immeasurable worth that we can afford to sacrifice for the sake of others. What will we get if we choose to be faithful? I believe we will begin to see the God's Kingdom come, and God's will done. That's a legacy for our children and grandchildren that will be worth the discomfort change brings. It's time brothers and sisters; let's be the change we are ready to see.

Susan Engle
Paducah District
Lay Resource Leader
Memphis Conference



August Birthdays

- 1 Chris Butcher, Preston Elliott II
- 3 Ciro Mejia
- 4 Jeanette Vannoy
- 7 Brennan McGlynn, Hannah Butcher
- 8 Michael Belshay, Jr., Mary Lou Galloway,
Adam Levine
- 9 Carmen Amaya Barahoma,
Gregory Stiggers, Jessie Marcus
- 10 Elmo Webb, Lynette Wray
- 13 Aidan Cruz
- 17 Doris Wray
- 18 Grant Midkiff
- 21 Kelsey Storck
- 22 Lynne Miller
- 23 Abdrea Onukwubiri
- 24 Carol Clatterbuck
- 25 Christopher Pavelka
- 26 Katie Kaufmann, Alice Mabry,
Pastor Mejia
- 27 Terry Holman
- 28 Javalin Baird
- 29 Helen Akers
- 31 Justin Huneycutt



August Anniversaries

- 10 Helen & Shirl Akers
Patricia & Ralph Guynn
- 15 Betty & Grant Midkiff
- 31 Rebecca & John Cavallo

Altar Flowers



- August 4 Paul & Frances Cruz
- August 11 Danny Webb
- August 18 Janet Doetsch
- August 25 Carol Clatterbuck

NOTICE

Effective July 1, 2013, the price of altar flowers has increased to \$30.00. There is a new flower form with the flower chart that we are asking you to complete for office records. This form will help ensure your order is correctly placed and recorded. A new line has been added where you can specify whether you wish to take your flowers home or leave them for Church ministerial use.

Please note that flowers taken home are NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

August 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10 am Parents with Young Children	2	3 10 am Usher Training 10 am Parents with Young Children
4 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	5	6 6-8 pm National Night Out at Beltsville Library	7	8	9	10
11 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School Second Sunday Lunch 1 pm Youth Fellowship	12 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	13 10 am Prayer Fellow- ship	14	15	16 11 am Community Place Café	17
18 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	19	20	21	22	23 7 pm Food Preparation	24 10 am Food Distribution
25 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm UMW Exec. Meeting 1 pm Youth Fellowship	26 7 pm Church Council 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	27 10 am Prayer Fellow- ship	28	29	30	31

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