



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor's Page – June 2015

What Are You Saved For?

“They need not go away (Jesus said to his disciples regarding the 5000+ people who were hungry); you give them something to eat.” – Matthew 14:16

As a pastor and Christian, requests to invest my time and money in important activities come to me everyday. If you're like me, it can be overwhelming. And being overwhelmed can send me into mental gridlock. I want to yell, “I CAN'T DO EVERYTHING!”

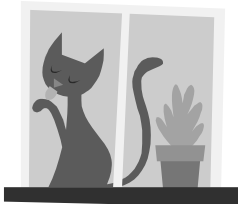
But Jesus never shut down. I read the scriptures and I hear Jesus' gentle voice telling me, “You're not expected to do everything. But you are expected to do what I'm telling you to do; do what I did.” Even those times when Jesus tried to get away and have time to himself, it often didn't happen because the people discovered where he was. But he didn't grumble and complain. Instead, he had pity on them.

One of the many tidbits I have learned from my studies is that John Wesley firmly believed that the question Christians need to wrestle with is not, “Are you saved?” but “**What are you saved FOR?**” Salvation is not a thing we keep locked away inside us. We are saved for good works, to make a positive difference for Jesus in the world.

No, I can't do everything but I need to seek God's guidance for what needs *I'm* supposed to meet, what suffering or injustice *I'm* supposed to relieve, what joy and comfort *I'm* supposed to provide. And then **DO IT**.

I am grateful for all the opportunities God sends our way to engage in God's Kingdom in the here and now, knowing that living my faith by doing good deeds is essential to my salvation.

Pastor Pat



THE WARM WEATHER IS HERE AND THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER AND WORSE. IT'S BETTER NOW THAT THE WINDOWS AND DOORS ARE OPEN SO I CAN SEE AND SMELL OUTSIDE. BUT SINCE THE FURNACE ISN'T RUNNING, MY PERSON PUT AWAY THE TABLE FOUNTAIN THAT I USE AS MY PERSONAL WATER FOUNTAIN. LIFE IS NEVER PURRFECT.

- GEORGE, THE PARSONAGE CAT

