



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor's Page –July 2015

Howcumzit?

Many of the things done in the church have reasons behind them. Sometimes, however, those reasons have been forgotten. Or possibly they were never explained in the first place. If you wonder "howcumzit?" about something we do in our church, let me know. I'll see if I can get you an answer.

That said, do you know the reason for our order of worship? While United Methodists have a great deal of freedom in how we structure worship, we also have a standard order; a basic template for what happens and when. Where this basic order comes from is important. It's not arbitrary or random. It's based on Lk. 24:13-35, the story of the walk to Emmaus.

The story takes place on the Sunday after Jesus' death. Jesus' disciples were discussing the events of the week while walking home. Jesus came alongside to listen to them. They didn't recognize him but they willingly shared with him their hopes, their disappointments and their puzzlement over the report of angels saying that Jesus was alive.

Next Jesus relates the Scriptures to their report, telling them about himself and how everything fit into God's plan. This is followed by a meal that becomes communion when at last Jesus' identity is revealed to the disciples. The disciples had had a long day and it was getting dark.

That made what they did next even more remarkable – they ran 7 miles back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples what had happened and that they knew for a fact that Jesus was alive.

The movement of the story is the overarching movement of the worship service: gathering, proclaiming and responding. In gathering we intentionally connect to God and each other. In proclaiming we hear God's word in Scripture followed by a message in which that word is applied. In responding we act upon God's word. Responses include our offering as well as a number of other things, communion being one of them, prayer being another. The service concludes with being sent back out into the world with good news to tell others.

During the summer months look for some changes in our order of worship to bring it more in line with this pattern. I hope that by understanding why our worship is the way it is, it will come to have a deeper meaning and greater impact on your life.

Pastor Pat



DO I EVER HATE THUNDERSTORMS! I CAN SENSE THEM LONG BEFORE THEY START. WHEN A THUNDERSTORM IS COMING, MY PERSON SEES ME SLINKING DOWN THE STEPS TO THE BASEMENT TO HIDE. WHEN I REAPPEAR SHE KNOWS FOR SURE THAT THE STORM IS OVER.

- GEORGE, THE PARSONAGE CAT

