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Mailing Label

100 W. Jefferson St.
Ottawa IL 61350

The Beacon

April 2026

From the Pastor's Pen:

Closer and Closer

Spring has sprung! The change in the weather that we longed for in January has arrived and Nature has primed its canvas in green. All around us the beauty of the earth testifies to the goodness of God and the pattern of resurrection. It helps us to begin with gratitude.

This shift of season helps to draw us out – outside, out of the familiar and comfortable, out of the inward focus and reflection that can be such a big part of the Lenten season. Eastertide is bracketed by and peppered with "sendings": the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 (Therefore, be going...), the breath of peace in John 20:19 (as the Father sent me...); the mission as witnesses in Acts 1:8 (...in Jerusalem, Judea, to the ends of the earth), and the Pentecost story in Acts 2. At the same time, it's important to recognize that we're not sent alone, and that our "sending" is an extension of the Incarnation. God draws so close to us that the divine occupies humanity in Jesus. And then, Christ sends us to bring humanity closer to each other and closer to God.

Writers and commentators have noted the irony of our current age, where technology has made instant connection across vast distances possible and simultaneously produced an epidemic of loneliness, isolation, and social disconnection. Longing for relationship, folks find themselves forming attachments to the Large Language Models (LLMs) that we have been calling AI or reacting to the increasing number of "bots" (computer generated accounts)

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PASTOR'S PEN (cont.)

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online. It has become easier and easier to immerse ourselves in bubbles of thought, echo chambers that reinforce our biases and misconceptions. Algorithms all around us work to keep us insulated and closed off, connected to a small tribe of like-minded folks but cut off from the glorious richness of human experience and expression.

Into this reality, Jesus still speaks. We're called to be known by love, a love that goes out, that shows up, that stands up, that kneels down, an active love, a hopeful love, joyful, patient, enduring. This is a great time to check in with neighbors, to get to know new people in all the places you go, and to look for the opportunities to learn new things. Curiosity and active listening will serve you well, and will be a blessing for those you meet, making space for the deeper connection that people are longing for.

Christ also calls us to pray for our enemies. We don't have to agree, and we might still find ourselves opposed, for good reasons, to others that we meet. Some folks are not safe, and we should be clear on that. At the same time, we must avoid the trap of diminishing their full humanity, allowing our anger or pain to write them off. This makes us smaller, and although it is the pattern of our time, it is not the way of God. Insofar as it depends on us, let us live in peace.

In a world where division is big business, connection is a revolutionary pursuit. It's not an accident that John Wesley called the Methodist movement a "connexion" (the "x" isn't one of those quirks of British English, it points to the Greek character that is the first letter of Christ) rather than a denomination. Our response to the individual and collective brokenness of our modern culture is the same mission we have always had, to be disciples and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Drawing nearer to God, and closer to our neighbor, transforms our hearts, our lives, and our world.

As we move through this season of resurrection, I encourage you to make a plan to do three things: a) meet someone new and make a friend; b) get to know someone at church a little better; and c) draw a little closer to God. If you'd like some ideas about how, I'd love to help.

Blessings

Pastor Seamus

PRAYING FOR

Our World Leaders
Bishop Dan Schwerin
DS Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert
Ottawa PADS Shelter
Pet Project Inc. Marseilles
Ottawa High School
Jarrett Papineau
Bill Clayton
Marleen Tellefson
Jake Book
Healing for A.
Beverly Hucker
Linda Krepps
Joanne McCallister
Connie Oberholz-Stone
Roberta Kandell
Carla Newell
Jeanette Walters
Earle Lecki
Viki Olsen
Don Tellefson
Jerry Mettille
Michele McConville
Cathy
Kyle
Patricia Terry
Jackie Gama
Carlos Gama
Joan Jordan
Jim Brooke
Tina Kannel
Jean Hess
Debbie Dixon
Jonah Durdan
Bob Smith
Barb Frey
Janeva Harwell
Vincent Connell
Evelyn Mutzabaugh
Jarod Russell
Chris Lecki
Debbie Valdez
Marissa
Julie Stillwell

In Christian Sympathy
Family of Teresa Anderson,
Sister-in Law of Jan Creedon
Gary Patton Family
Logan Sommer Family
Scott Colle Family
Nancy Endres Family

Long-term Prayers
Selena Meyers
Fred Woltering
Debi Clausen
Erin Zander

Pavilion
Sharon Nelson

Prayers for our Servicemembers
CW2 Josh Papineau: US Army,
Ft. Eustis, Virginia

MSGT Johnathan Oberholz,
Illinois Natl. Guard - Army

PFC Timothy Lingle, US Army,
Ft. Hood, Texas

MMFN Nicholas Fletcher, US Navy,
USS Washington

SSG Kyle Rendell, US Army,
Ft. Jackson, SC

Kayne Robinson, US Air Force, Quatar

THANK YOU!!!

A huge thank you to all of you for making this year a success. Stay tuned for final totals and more photos next month!

With your help, we were able to serve 718 meals to our community.

MISSIONS

The Missions Committee has been so busy lately, delivering your goods to the mini pantries each week. Thank you!!

The Feed My Starving Children Day is scheduled for May 16 with three more spots available. You can carpool from the church at 9:00 or meet us at the Aurora facility by 11:00. We'll be shown what to do and work about an hour or more. We usually grab a late lunch on the way home. A bonding experience!

Miracle Sunday is May 17. Miracle Sunday is May 17th. This is the Bishop's Appeal. An offering will be collected for this. It will benefit the Endowment for Theological Education in the Central Conferences and the construction of a high school in Tanzania, under the leadership of missionary Rev. Young Seon Kim, an NIC clergy member.

Mission trip May 17-22nd. They are going to Iowa. The Mission Committee will pay for gas, and any supplies they need.

Fifth Sunday is May 31st after church. We will have a breakfast and afterwards Ann Russell will lead us in making Kevin's Kits for homeless people. She is requesting donations of backpacks.

Thanks for all you do!

Your Mission Group

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

DEVOTION

All-Church Memory Verse for May 2026
1 Corinthians 13
"Now faith, hope, and love remain – these three things – and the greatest of these is love." – 1 Corinthians 13

Spring has arrived!!

A devotion by Marianne Perino

At this time of new beginnings, I walk around my yard nearly everyday to see what plants and flowers have emerged. I have FAITH most will appear as they have for many years. I HOPE they will bigger and more beautiful than ever! I especially LOVE seeing the shoots of perennial favorites that feel like old friends returning year after year.

In addition to growing flowers, herbs and vegetables, I have also become very interested in creating butterfly habitat.

My common milkweed has taken a couple seasons to get established and so far failed to lure any monarchs to deposit their next generation on its leaves. This year though, the plants look especially vigorus so I'm hoping they will entice the long distance travelers to stop by as they make their way back south to Mexico.

For the past few years I have been fortunate enough to host many larvae of the black swallowtail that especially love laying their eggs on parsley plants. As the larvae matures they voraciously consume the plant leaving only bare stems. I plan to have multiple parsley plants on my deck this year!

Anyone who plants a seed cannot possibly deny that God exists! Each seed placed in the soil is done so with Faith, Hope and Love that it will become something beautiful, something that will feed us, or something that will provide the oxygen we need to exist. Each seed is the beginning of a miracle.

ACTS OF LOVE AROUND THE COUNTRY

By Emily Wilton

Undies for Easter campaign affirms dignity, creates connection

Ahead of Easter each year, Rev. Marilyn Schneider, EPA's Prison Ministries Coordinator asks Rev. Carmelo Urena, the Head Chaplain of the Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP), what he needs most. Each year since 2022, except for one year when toiletries were most urgently needed, the answer to that question has been "underwear."

People who are incarcerated receive just one pair of briefs, and no undershirts or socks when they arrive at one of the prison system's five facilities. To live without such necessities can be a dehumanizing experience. The Undies for Easter Campaign not only meets a practical need but also serves as an expression of God's love and of our Christian belief in the human worth of those who are incarcerated.

With this year's Undies for Easter campaign, United Methodists from across Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey exceeded our initial goal and purchased over 2000 briefs, over 2000 t-shirts, and over 2000 pairs of socks for incarcerated individuals. Thank you for your incredible generosity! It makes a real and important difference in the lives of people in prison.

When we arrived and entered the prison, we traded in our driver's licenses for guest badges, then went through security. Each person was patted down to ensure we weren't bringing any weapons or contraband into the prison. We set up two tables – one for handing out medium-sized garments and the other for handing out for large-sized garments. Many expressed how appreciative they were and how much they needed the items given. Many said a simple thank you. Still others quietly smiled or met our eyes with a grateful glance. "In that moment," DS Howard later reflected, "I heard the words of Jesus, 'I was in prison and you visited me,'… What seemed simple became sacred."

Noting that one man did not need the socks from his packet, we observed that he gave them to another. "He simply gave them as we did, without any conditions, simply showing the love of Jesus in the act of giving."

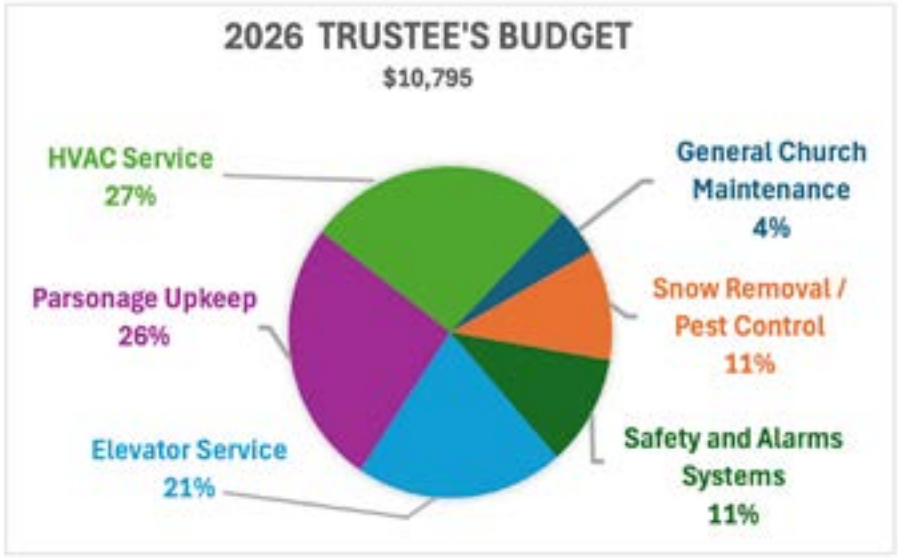
To read more: https://www.epaumc.org/news/undies-for-easter-campaign-affirms-dignity-creates-connection.

TRUSTEE EXPENSES

Trustee Expenses Contained within the General Fund Budget

While preparing for 2026, the Finance Committee has incorporated expenses necessary for maintaining the church property within the general fund budget. The goal is to ensure that both the church and parsonage continue to provide environments of comfort, security, and hospitality, welcoming all individuals to participate in service, fellowship, and grow in faith together.

Guided by faithful stewardship, we allocate funds based on spending patterns from previous years, carefully adjusting for inflation and anticipated needs. Our planning remains responsible and within expected income, guided by stewardship and trust in God's provision.



The 2026 Trustee Budget supports key areas of maintenance and operations, including general church maintenance, snow removal, pest control, safety/alarm systems, elevator service, HVAC service, and parsonage upkeep. The budgeted expenses are displayed in the chart above.

Occasionally, unforeseen expenses may occur. When this happens, the Finance Committee, Trustees, and Ministry Council thoroughly evaluate these costs to determine the most faithful course of action—one that remains true to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

MAY WORSHIP

May 3 – 1 Peter 2:2-10; Series: Closer and Closer - "Living Stones"

May 10 – John 14:15-21; Guest Preacher: Nicole Hofmaster; MOTHER'S DAY

May 17 – Acts 1:6-14; Series: Closer and Closer - "Bearing Witness"; ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 24 – Acts 2:1-21; "The Spirit Moves Us to Speak"; PENTECOST

May 31 – Matthew 28:16-20; "Therefore, Be Going"; PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

The So-Called Upright

1If I had said, "I will talk on in this way,"
I would have been untrue to the circle of your children.
– Psalm 73:15

The children are watching.
They see what we,
the so-called upright, are doing;
what is being left undone.

The children are waiting for us,
the "pure in heart," to stop making excuses
to quit hiding behind respectability politics.

The children are hungry
while we wallow in bitterness and busy-ness.
The children are dying
while we keep score and post rants.

You say you are waiting on God?
God is waiting on you, beloved!

Laugh in the face of your enemies!
Find joy in the struggle!
Inspire the children to dream, again!

– Marilyn Pagán-Banks

May

3	Dennis Day
7	Carol Lowry
13	Jessica Lowry
14	Joanne McCallister
19	Matt Patton
26	Alyson Williams Sue Koeppe Kathy Olson
30	Johnathan Oberholz Debbie Dixon Lorraine McCallister

June

3	Charlie Reed
5	Carrie Newman
7	Julie Grubaugh
8	Ryan Leifheit
13	Larry Windsor Gloria Holcomb
14	Pierce Reed
15	Marianne Perino Gerry Woltering
16	Judy Day
17	Donna Seibert
20	Paul Havelka
24	Vern Lowry Katie Pratt
25	Anne Houk
29	Bill Jordan
30	Keegan Olsen

We give thanks to God for the gift of you!

AROUND THE CLUSTER & COMMUNITY

Special Project on May 31st

Have you ever had an experience of Holy Spirit God putting something on your heart? I did, and I need all of you to help make it a reality. God inspired me to create kits designed with the unhoused in mind-particularly those not suited for shelter accommodations at places like PADS.

Kevin's Kits are backpacks filled with some basic necessities. With the encouragement and support of our Missions team, the concept will become a reality. Plans to distribute them include a limited quantity available at the church for WHOO adjacent ministry, plus at PADS or other places where the unhoused community seek assistance.

Watch for ways to contribute to the supplies to this new ministry. Please write "Kevin's Kits" in the check memo if you wish to donate financially.

The first 10 Kevin's Kits will be filled May 31, 2026, at the 5th Sunday Potluck/ Messy Church outreach ministry event. Please stay for a few minutes after the meal to help fill the backpacks. We hope to grow the ministry in the future. Your participation is a vital part of its success!

Together, we will dignity and hope to those souls who often feel unseen while meeting basic needs. Please join in prayer and action alongside me to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Amen.

Peace and Grace,
Ann Russell

June 22, 2026 – Culver's Night | **July 20-24, 2026 – Vacation Bible School**

GOD MOVES AROUND THE CONFERENCE

By Victoria Rebeck

Teens through adults ignited for ministry

Kalyn Merritt, a junior at Crystal Lake (Ill.) High School, is active in leading children's and youth ministry at First United Methodist Church in Crystal Lake. She wasn't necessarily thinking about ordained ministry.

But her pastor, Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford, encouraged her to attend Ignite, a North Central Jurisdiction event to showcase opportunities to serve through the United Methodist Church and help people discern where they may be called. So Kalyn joined about 80 others who attended the gathering March 13-15 at Wespath Benefits and Investments in Glenview, Ill.

For many, the event led them to think of calling in new ways. Kalyn arrived thinking that she might pursue children's and youth ministry, but after hearing a presentation by the General Board of Global Ministries, she's now interested in learning more about mission work.

Participants – who represented a broad range of ages – joined in worship and chose among 12 workshops. These addressed ministry for the lay and ordained, in such topics as "What is Ordination and is It Right for Me?" "Church Planting/Fresh Expressions," "Mission and Missionary Ministry," to "How to Pay for Seminary," among others.

The spirit at the event was energetic. Rev. Jonathan Priebe, chair of NCJ Committee on Ordained Ministry, which organized the event, recalled 2 Timothy 1:6: "Fan into flame the gift of God that is within you." "At times over the past few years, many of us have felt like we were personally burning low or sitting among the ashes of things that used to burn brighter," he observed."That's why Ignite felt so hopeful. You could sense God starting new things all around you. The Holy Spirit was there calling new leaders, strengthening those who have already said yes, and fanning the flames of ministry again."

Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, resident bishop of the Indiana Conference and the Council of Bishops president, set an encouraging tone at the opening worship service on March 14. Preaching from 1 Samuel 3:1-10, she reminded listeners that "calling rarely begins with a road map. It begins with a nudge."One need not wait to feel completely prepared and ready. "God does not call the fully formed. God forms the called," she said.

To read more: https://www.umcnic.org/news/teens-through-adults-ignited-for-ministry.

Kalyn Merritt (left) and Miriam Safford talk about mission work at the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) workshop.

MAY CALENDAR

3	9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. SPRC
5	9 a.m. Fix-it Squad 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
6	7 a.m. Ecumenical Men's Group 6:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal
7	6:30 p.m. VBS Meeting
10	9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Finance
11	11:30 a.m. Emmaus Reunion Group
12	9 a.m. Fix-it Squad 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
13	7 a.m. Ecumenical Men's Group
17	9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Ministry Council Adult Mission Trippers leave for Iowa
19	9 a.m. Fix-it Squad 10 a.m. Bible Study No Choir Practice
20	7 a.m. Ecumenical Men's Group No Praise Band Rehearsal
24	9 a.m. Worship 10:30 Trustees
26	9 a.m. Fix-it Squad 10 a.m. Bible Study
27	7 a.m. Ecumenical Men's Group

First United Methodist Church Ottawa

Vacation Bible School

July 20-24 5pm to 8 pm

No Charge

Ages 4-10

11 and older helpers welcome

Dinner served each night

Online Child Registration

https://first-united-methodist-of-ottawa.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-child

Phone to register 815-433-1060

Camp Firelight Planning Meetings

Thursday, May 7, 6:30 pm

Monday, June 1, 6:30 pm

Monday, July 6, 6:30 pm

If you are planning to volunteer for VBS this year please try to attend these meetings. We will be discussing details, constructing kits for Arts and Crafts, creating décor, eating snacks and of course having fun!

Questions? Contact Marianne at 815-587-5089.

BIBLE IN A YEAR: MAY 2026

Bible-in-a-Year Daily Readings: May 2026

May 1	2 Samuel 5:1-10; 1 Chronicles 11-12
May 2	Psalm 133
May 3	Psalms 106-107
May 4	2 Samuel 5:11-6:23; 1 Chronicles 13-16
May 5	Psalms 1-2,15, 22-24, 47, 68
May 6	Psalms 89, 96, 100-101, 105, 132
May 7	2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17
May 8	Psalms 25, 29, 33, 36, 39
May 9	2 Samuel 8-9; 1 Chronicles 18
May 10	Psalms 50, 53, 60, 75
May 11	2 Samuel 10; 1 Chronicles 19; Psalm 20
May 12	Psalms 65-67, 69-70
May 13	2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Chronicles 20
May 14	Psalms 32, 51, 86, 122
May 15	2 Samuel 13-15
May 16	Psalms 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55
May 17	2 Samuel 16-18
May 18	Psalms 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64
May 19	2 Samuel 19-21
May 20	Psalms 5, 38, 41-42
May 21	2 Samuel 22-23, Psalm 57
May 22	Psalms 95, 97-99
May 23	2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21-22; Psalm 30
May 24	Psalms 108-110
May 25	1 Chronicles 23-25
May 26	Psalms 131, 138-139, 143-145
May 27	1 Chronicles 26-29; Psalm 127
May 28	Psalms 111-118
May 29	1 Kings 1-2; Psalms 27, 71, 94
May 30	Psalm 119:1-88
May 31	1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chronicles 1; Psalm 72

The online Conference support group meets the second Wednesday of the month from 7:30-8:30 pm on Zoom. Visit https://www.umcnic.org/news/read-the-bible-in-a-year-with-us for the registration link.

HIS STORY. HER STORY. OUR STORY.

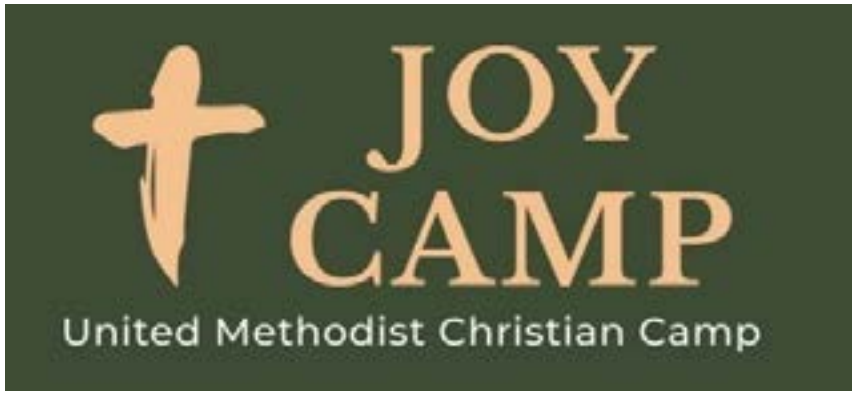
His Story. Her Story. Our Story
A new addition to the Beacon

Share the story about your life in the Methodist Church.

Email or text t:
Mperino7582@yahoo.com
815-587-5089

Some suggestions to include:

- How long have you been attending the Methodist Church?
- Where and what church?
- What is your favorite memory of church?
- How has it shaped your life?
- Any traditions that no longer exist?



JOY Camp Registration Open (click link)

JOY Camp is a week-long overnight camp open to incoming 5th Grade students through newly graduated high school seniors, hosted at Camp Reynoldswood. The camp runs from June 21st to June 27th and has a total cost of $655 with discounts available for early registration (prior to June 1st), and siblings.

Contact the First UMC office for information on a partial scholarship.

FINANCE UPDATE MARCH 2026

General Fund

	Monthly	YTD
Income	$16,461	$53,891
Expenses	$18,676	$52,337
Difference [Surplus / (Deficit)]	($2,214)	$1,554
Estimated General Fund Balance		$15,036
Projected Year-end [Surplus / (Deficit)]		($9,204)
Starting Deficit		($10,769)
Percent Deficit reduction to date		14.53%

Missions Fund

	Monthly Income	Monthly Expenses	YTD Income	YTD Expense	Fund Balance
WHOO	$228	$619	$1,213	$2,590	$2,040
Missions	$657	$949	$5,510	$4,701	$1,963
Total	$885	$1,568	$6,723	$7,292	$4,003

Apportionments ➔ On track to pay 100%

Highlights:

- Church finances through March remain steady, with income at 110% and expenses at 102% of forecast. We are grateful for God's guidance as we faithfully steward these resources together, trusting in His provision and wisdom.
- We currently project a year-end deficit of about ($9,200) if income and expenses align with projections. This shortfall is smaller than anticipated, reminding us that God's hand is at work in every circumstance. Please keep praying for wisdom and support, confident that "God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).
- Through March, our Missional Funds have allocated $7,292 to WHOO and other mission projects, reflecting our commitment to extend hope and grace through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT JOHN WESLEY

By Jeremy Steele

History is more than facts and figures. It is full of real people with real stories. Connecting with those people and stories helps us understand our lives and discern God's direction for our future. That is why it is important constantly to connect our teaching back to the important people in our church history. To help you do that, we have gathered some interesting, and maybe even surprising, facts about John Wesley to help you connect United Methodist history to your next lesson.

John Wesley wrote one of the all-time bestselling medical texts.

Wesley was deeply convicted that God is concerned about our earthly life as well as our heavenly one. To that end, he wrote a medical text for the everyday person titled "*Primitive Physick*." The book detailed the current knowledge about home remedies and went through 32 editions, making it one of the most widely read books in England.

Many of Wesley's cures and tips on healthy living remain widely accepted. While some of his advice was wishful thinking, the most important part of his philosophy was his insistence on continual observation to support hypotheses. Wesley boldly questioned modern doctors – how they sometimes treated humans like machines; that much of their "medicine" lacked merit and they lacked evidence to support its efficacy. By the same token, some of Wesley's beliefs certainly needed more supportive evidence. For instance, Wesley recommended holding a puppy against the stomach to cure stomach pain. He offered dried and powdered toad pills for asthma. He also enjoyed regular dips in cold bathwater, thought to be a near panacea. It sounds strange to us, but many leading minds during Wesley's time, espoused these sorts of folk remedies. And honestly, who doesn't feel better after holding a puppy? The point is, like David – who had the heart of God and still fell short – even the greatest leaders with the biggest hearts are fallible.

John wesley coined the term "agree to disagree."

Over the years, Wesley had serious theological differences with another popular pastor named George Whitefield. Though they both argued passionately, Wesley reflected on these differences in a memorial sermon for Whitefield by saying: "There are many doctrines of a less essential nature. ... In these, we may think and let think; we may 'agree to disagree.' But, meantime, let us hold fast the essentials. …" This appears to be the first recorded use of the term. It was a hallmark of Wesley's way of holding to his convictions while remaining in connection with those with whom he disagreed.

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FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT JOHN WESLEY *(cont.)*

(Continued from previous page)

John Wesley rode far enough on horseback to circle the earth 10 times.

Wesley rode 250,000 miles! He was convinced that it was important for him personally to spread the gospel through relationships and continue to grow closer to God in those relationships. Asked if he would consider walking instead of riding, he replied, "Nay."

Wesley had serious doubts about his faith.

Questioning one's faith should not be disparaged. Doubts are essential to making any belief system one's own. They do not mean that one will let it go. In fact, even as Wesley struggled with deep doubts about faith, he followed the wise instruction of a mentor who told him to "preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith."

"Methodist" was originally a derogatory term.

Though the origins of the term "Methodist" are in dispute, it is clear that it was originally used by outsiders to mock John Wesley and his early societies because of their dedication to following a method for growing closer to God. They ended up accepting the term, considering it a positive descriptor of their movement. Way to own it, Methodists!

Wesley counseled people to "eat a little less than you desire."

Staying slim was far from Wesley's goal (1), though he did weigh in around 128 pounds. This was not the result of dieting, but rather of a practice to ensure that people were not ruled by their natural desires, but exercising control over them.

Wesley never said this famous quote attributed to him.

It has been on the back of more than one United Methodist youth camp T-shirt: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can." Though the quote is often attributed to John Wesley and is consistent with his perspective on life, many historians have confirmed there is no record of Wesley ever saying that.

Methodism grew from four to 132,000 members in Wesley's lifetime.

The beginning of Methodism (3) was a group of four who called themselves the "holy club" at Oxford. When Wesley died in 1791, he left behind a movement with 72,000 members in the British Isles and 60,000 in America.

These facts will equip you with lots of great discussion starters you can use at your next dinner party or church gathering. Let's have some fun with history!