

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY

Thursday (10/29) 3:30 Youth Bible Study.
5:00 Community Table.
6:30 Cub Scouts.
Friday (10/30) 6:00 AA—Fellowship
Hall.
Saturday (10/31) 7:00 Meth. Anonymous.

New Bible Study

Pastor Steve will begin a new Bible Study on Sunday, November 8th from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. during Sunday Night Live. Join Pastor Steve as he begins this new Bible Study on the Gospel of John.

TIME CHANGE

November 1, 2009

Please make a note that time will time will “fall back” on Sunday November 1st. Don't forget to change your clock on Saturday night before you go to bed.

Sunshine Cards

“Sunshine Cards” are available on the table in the Narthex for you to send a note to one of our homebound or nursing home members. There is a list of these people on the table also.

Pastor: G. Scott Pattison -- Pastor of Caring & connections: Steve Brittenham
Director of Educational Ministries: Sonja Richards -- Church Secretary: Hazel Mapes



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3rd Tuesday Go Out to Lunch Bunch

November 17, 2009

The 3rd Tuesday Go Out to Lunch Bunch will be going to the Das Essenhouse on Tuesday, November 17. The will leave the church at 11:00 a.m. that morning. Reservations need to be in to the church office (347-0056) by Friday, November 13 at noon.

Celebration Fellowship Meal

November 1, 2009

This **Sunday, November 1, 2009**, directly after the 10:30 worship celebration, we will gather for a carry-in meal, as a time of celebration and fellowship. Our Food Ministry Team invites you to bring a dish according to your last name (also please bring a spoon or serving utensil for the dish you bring). We will provide plates and utensils for your meal:

A-G = Salads H-P = Desserts
Q-Z = Main Dish: meats or casseroles

Dorcas Circle Selling Calendars

Our Dorcas Circle ladies are again selling calendars. Calendars will be available between services Sunday morning.

TIME CHANGE – NOV. 1—CHANGE YOUR CLOCK BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY

The Trinity Spire

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Website: www.trinitychurchum.org

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT: Trinity Church is a people exalting God, growing in discipleship, reaching our community while caring and serving as Jesus did.

Volume 35, Issue 22

October 28, 2009

Trinity This Sunday

November 1, 2009

Holy Communion

8:30 WORSHIP

9:30 FELLOWSHIP IN NARTHEX

9:35 SMALL GROUPS

10:30 WORSHIP

11:45 CELEBRATION MEAL

4:30 DIVORCECARE

4:30 SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

6:30 AL-A-NON

7:00 AA MEETING

From Pastor Scott

This past Sunday, I shared these words from William Barclay. He reminds us that, *"We must remember that if we face the sun, the shadows will fall behind us, but if we turn our backs on the sun all the shadows will be in front."* We surely live in a time that there are many dark shadows being cast by circumstances beyond our control. What is a person of faith to do? Barclay reminds us that our focus needs to be toward the Son, not the place where the shadows are cast. Some may say that is not being "realistic." The ironic thing is that as a person of faith that is the only way we will know what "real" is. The shadows of circumstances cast over our lives, cause us to not see things as they are, and definitely not from God's perspective. When we keep our focus on Jesus, the power and warmth of God's Spirit gives us the counsel and power to live the way we are meant to live.

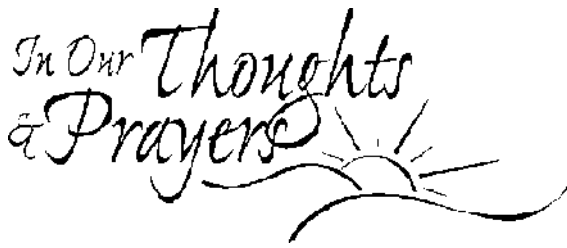


In 2 Kings 12:2 we see that King Joash did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. During the Joash's formative years Jehoiada, the priest, instructed him in the ways that would honor God. Because Jehoiada had instructed him, he was able to do what was right in the sight of the Lord. After Jehoiada's death, Joash yielded to the petitions of the princes of Judah that he would assent to their worshipping idols, and at length went so far as to stone the son of his benefactor, the prophet Zechariah, on account of his candid reproof of this apostasy (2 Chronicles 24:17-22). I encourage you as we enter these last two months of 2009 and we turn the corner to 2010, let us keep our focus on the Son, and live life the way God intended us to live it.

What voices are you listening to? Do they move you to live more faithfully and Godly, or to listen to those voices that turn your eyes from the Son, and cause you to give worth to ungodly influences (thus worshipping them)?

Remember, God is still faithful, and has our best in mind!

Growing with you!
Pastor Scott



Phil Alexander, Gertrude Arnold, Anna Bailey, Charlotte Bedson, Maxine Berhalter, Jean Bonecutter, Sandra Boulby, Floyd Burnworth, Kitty Burnworth, Virginia Buttermore, Jim Chaffins, Diane Claybaugh, Sheri Coffel, Jan Corbin, Fred Cornett, Del & Mary Cortner's son, Eleanor Davis, Ben Earley, The Family of Bob Ewing, Marvin Fager, Keith Fee—Terminal Cancer, Donni Frain, Beth Friskney, Jason Gienger, Oryan Gipson, Todd Gipson, Sarah Grismore, Mac and Helen Grossman, Doug Haddock, Beth Hager, Wayne Hartigan, David Haskins, Raven Hensley, The Family of Jane Hossinger, Kathy James, Mike Johnson, Phil Johnson, Virginia Kirschner, Todd Kline, Ben Kreigh, Lois Kruger, Evan Lash, Kara Lilly, Kenneth Marks, Luella McClish, Austin McCormick, Cindy Mercer, Peggy Messer, Marceille Mitchell, The Family of Bob Nelson, Marge Noble on the loss of her parent, Phil Ogden, Annie Pratt, Patricia Faye Pulis, Mary Pyle, Ashley Rhinehart, Evelyn Rice, Martha Ringler, Betty Rinker, Adam Ross, Nanette Russell, Justin Scher, Kim Shatto, Joan Shippy, The Family of Ruby Schultz on the death of Ruby's Mother, Bettie Smith, Karen Steelman, Sean Tarney, Bob Vale, Deena Vale, William Vale, Betty VanWinkle, Vi Woujas, Sharon Woods, Cousin, Jerry, with Colon Cancer, Brother who has cancer; Grandson who has brain cancer, Mom who is in hospital with heart problems, Sister who fractured her shoulder, Myself, Son and Daughter, my Mother-in-law with Parkinson's, My Family, Tammy, Father-in-law, Someone going through many changes in their life, Friend going through tough situations, A Job for my Sons and all in need of work, My Mom, Sister—Jean—In Indianapolis who has lost job and is currently unemployed.

Common Grace--Update

This September Common Grace received 69 applications. Of these, 37 were first time and 32 were returning applicants. This was the most applications ever received in one month in the history of Common Grace since its founding. They disbursed \$6,934.64 with an average of \$114.61 per family helped (not all of the applicants were assisted for various reasons). Gordon Bloom, Common Grace Board Member

All Saints Day

November 1, 2009

On Sunday, November 1 we will be celebrating the lives of our Trinity Family members who have died since last All Saints Sunday. Those we will be remembering are: *Bob Nelson, Bob Ewing, Jane Hossinger, Bob Czupryn, Maggie Ewing, Ruth Stoeckley, Monna Tuffley, Charlotte Eichorn, Betty Strouse, Joanne Emerick*

1st Place 4 Health Ladies Bible Study

Light and Healthy Holidays is a Bible study that will inspire you to eat right and stay active through the winter holidays.

First Place 4 Health (ladies weight-loss group) will begin a new six week session the week of November 16th on Mondays at 6:30 pm.

Light and Healthy Holidays is a six-week devotional study that provides inspiration, balance and order to remain faithful to your commitment to healthy living during the hectic Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. Includes valuable holiday helps, menus, fun recipes, prayer journal pages and holiday related devotions for staying healthy spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically.

Based on proven techniques and 25 years of experience, First Place 4 Health is the most complete Christ-centered healthy living program available.

Looking Ahead...

Red Cross Bloodmobile will be here Friday, November 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hanging of the Greens Sunday, November 22, 4:30 p.m.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Thursday, November 26.

Craft Bazaar (sponsored by our Education Committee) – Saturday, December 5, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will be selling Cookbooks (\$6.50 each) and running a concession stand.

Bethlehem Village – Sunday, December 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Project 52 Report for October

The following Project 52's were supported this past month and amounts were: Noble House, \$5.00; Carolyn Veit, \$10.00; Common Grace, \$132.00; ASP, \$52.00; Friendship Food Pantry, \$25.00; Operation Utah Washer/Dryer, \$15.00; and Mission Work Teams, \$52.00. This is a total of \$291.00 for October.

Comments from Al Moore...

I noticed in Friday the 16th Kendallville paper the picture of the Rummage Sale volunteers. Except for one young lad all the rest had ages that exceeded 70 years. I know we had many others who were younger but the picture does point to the fact that we are an aging church. That fact affects the scope of the projects we can take on to help ourselves and others. It also affects the time allocations our pastors and staff have to make in dealing with each of us. And naturally it affects the giving and the attitude of us all. I mentioned to both services some of the church statistics concerning where all the people have gone. I shall restate them so that all can know. In the past 4 ½ years 10% of the church members (57 by count) have gone to be with the Lord, 5% are at home or in some kind of assisted care facility (25), 3% have moved (11 approx.), and 5% have drifted away from us (26 approx). The combined totals are significant in such a short time. My point is, that we need to give as much support as possible and even more support than usual to our pastors and staff and to the church in order to continue to serve at the present levels.

Do You Appreciate Your Pastor?

An Epistle from Bishop Mike

The month of October is "Pastor Appreciation Month" and it is a good time to show some appreciation to your pastor. Everyone needs a word of encouragement and appreciation from time to time, and pastors are no exception. In fact, most pastors report that they seldom receive such appreciation from their parishioners. Perhaps we all tend to think that since pastors are called by God and doing God's work, they don't need to be thanked or appreciated. Not true!

Being a pastor is hard work, it sometimes breaks your heart, and most pastors have times of wondering, "Does anybody really care? Is my ministry making a difference? Do my people know how much I care for them?"

Here are some ways you can show appreciation to your pastor:

Give you pastor a few gift cards (they can be for small amounts, but give enough to make it fun) to spend on food, ice cream, books, or something special.

If your pastor is married and has young children, offer to babysit those kids so you pastor and spouse can have an evening out together.

Write your pastor a kind note, poem, or prayer card – anything personal to say, "I appreciate you."

Plan a brief time in a worship service for the lay leader or the worship liturgist to state publicly, "Pastor, we love you and appreciate you" – and then follow that with a round of applause

(everyone likes to be applauded).

Offer to take your pastor (and spouse) out for dinner – and make it a nice place and pay for their meal as an expression of appreciation.

Tell your pastor you are praying for her/him – and then do it!

Surprise your pastor some month other than October with some expressions of appreciation.

Find a special date in your pastor's life (birthday, wedding anniversary, anniversary of ordination, etc.) and recognize that special date with some notes of appreciation.

Tell your pastor's spouse how much you appreciate her/his sacrifices for your pastor to be in ministry. Most spouses are willing to share their pastor/spouse, but they sure would like to know that we all notice their sacrifice.

Smile at your pastor and give him/her a big, appropriate hug, especially after a tough meeting, a difficult funeral, or a busy Sunday service. Sometimes it is the simple things – like a smile or an encouraging word or gesture – that mean the most.

I am sure that there are lots of other ways to show appreciation, but the list above includes some of the ways that people have shown appreciation to me over the years. October is good month to show appreciation to your pastor. So are the other 11 months of the year.

Bishop Michael J. Coyner, Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church



Churches Benefit From The Power Of Percentage

By Dr. Kent R. Hunter

Could your church use more money? The number of churches that would say no to that question could be listed on the left edge of your credit card!

God is so smart! You just can't improve on the biblical plan for every part of life — including your wallet. The Bible never tells how much in dollars, rupees, or pesos to give, but is very clear about approaching this subject. "Give as the Lord has given to you."

The only way you can biblically approach "how much should we give to the church?" is by a percentage.

You can't say "Well, we gave \$35 a week last year. Maybe we should raise it to \$38 a week." You don't say "The pastor says our church is behind the budget, so maybe we ought to put in a little more." You definitely don't want to say "I don't like the decisions the church made at the congregational meeting. I am going to withhold my offering." None of these are biblical approaches.

What you can say is "We have chosen to give 7 percent of what God gives us to His work. We are determined to grow in our faith and raise it one percent next year and another the year after that. We believe God will meet our needs."

This is called proportionate giving. It is practiced by only 30 percent of those who attend church regularly. The rest practice dollar giving. It is not God's plan. It always leaves the church with fewer resources.

My son, Jon, is 21 and in college. He works part-time, but doesn't make much. He has learned to trust God and give 10 percent. The amount of Jon's 10 percent isn't a lot. Think about what that will mean as his earning power expands. Think what it means for kingdom work. Think what it could mean for your church. The numbers would astound you.

Focus on these issues:

- Think, teach, preach, and practice percentage giving.
- Help people realize that God does not focus on equal giving (dollars) but equal sacrifice (percentage).
- Help parents teach their children percentage giving - it is a long-term, very good investment for the Kingdom.
- Reflect on your own life. Do you give as the Lord has given to you?
- When you cash in stock or sell appreciated property, do you give a percentage back to God?

Dr. Kent R. Hunter

News and Sun - Life Section

Sunday, August 23, 2009

***Used with Permission**

Winter Clothing Give-Away

We will be giving away winter clothing at the Community Table meals on Mondays and Thursdays. For a few weeks tables and clothing racks will be set up in the "big room" for this purpose. If you should have winter type clothing to donate, please feel free to bring it to the church and place it on the racks or tables provided. It will be determined at a later date as to when this service will stop.

THE NATURE, DESIGN, RULES OF THE UNITED SOCIETIES IN LONDON, BRISTOL, KINGSWOOD, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, &c.

1. IN the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to me in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired (as did two or three more the next day) that I would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come; which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That we might have more time for this great work, I appointed a day when they might all come together, which from thenceforward they did every week, namely, on Thursday, in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them, (for their number increased daily,) I gave those advices, from time to time, which I judged most needful for them; and we always concluded our meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities.
2. This was the rise of the United Society, first in London, and then in other places. Such a society is no other than "a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation."
3. That it may the more easily be discerned, whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each society is divided into smaller companies, called classes, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in every class; one of whom is styled the Leader. It is his business, (1.) To see each person in his class once a week at least, in order to inquire how their souls prosper; to advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require; to receive what they are willing to give toward the relief of the poor. (2.) To meet the Minister and the Stewards of the society once a week; in order to inform the Minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly, and will not be reprov'd; to pay to the Stewards what they have received of their several classes in the week preceding; and to show their account of what each person has contributed.
4. There is one only condition previously required in those who desire admission into these societies, a desire "to flee from the wrath to come, to be saved from their sins:" But, wherever this is really fixed in the soul, it will be shown by its fruits. It is therefore expected of all who continue therein, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation, First, by doing no harm, by avoiding evil in every kind; especially that which is most generally practised: Such is, the taking the name of God in vain; the profaning the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work thereon, or by buying or selling; drunkenness, buying or selling spirituous liquors, or drinking them, unless in cases of extreme necessity; fighting, quarreling, brawling; brother going to law with brother; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing; the using many words in buying or selling; the buying or selling uncustomed goods; the giving or taking things on usury, that is, unlawful interest; uncharitable or unprofitable conversation, particularly speaking evil of Magistrates or of Ministers; doing to others as we would not they should do unto us; doing what we know is not for the glory of God, as the "putting on of gold or costly apparel;" the taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus; the singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God; softness, and needless self-indulgence; laying up treasures upon earth; borrowing without a probability of paying; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.
5. It is expected of all who continue in these societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

Secondly, by doing good, by being, in every kind, merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as is possible, to all men;—to their bodies, of the ability which God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick, or in prison;—to their souls, by instructing reproving, or exhorting all they have any intercourse with; trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine of devils, that "we are not to do good unless our heart be free to it." By doing good especially to them that are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others, buying one of another; helping each other in business; and so much the more, because the world will love its own, and them only: By all possible diligence and frugality, that the gospel be not blamed: By running with patience the race that is set before them, "denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily;" submitting to bear the reproach of Christ, to be as the filth and offscouring of the world; and looking that men should "say all manner of evil of them falsely for the Lord's sake."

6. It is expected of all who desire to continue in these societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

Thirdly, by attending upon all the ordinances of God. Such are, the public worship of God; the ministry of the word, either read or expounded; the supper of the Lord; family and private prayer; searching the Scriptures; and fasting, or abstinence.

7. These are the General Rules of our societies; all which we are taught of God to observe, even in his written word, the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice. And all these, we know, his Spirit writes on every truly awakened heart. If there be any among us who observe them not, who habitually break any of them, let it be made known unto them who watch over that soul as they that must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways; we will bear with him for a season: But then if he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls.

The Works of John Wesley Volume VIII – Rules of the Bands – Societies

JOHN WESLEY,
CHARLES WESLEY.

H1N1 Virus/Swine Flu

Fall 2009 Update: What's the Deal, What to Do and What Not to Do in Worship

by Taylor Burton-Edwards

News about the H1N1 Virus/Swine Flu had diminished after the early scare of the late spring flu season. With the fall flu season upon us, and schools and colleges back in session, it is expected that the virus will have new opportunities to spread.

In addition to our existing resources on Swine Flu and Holy Communion, here is a list of "Dos and Don'ts" for worship that balances attention to theological integrity with appropriate pastoral concern.

What's the Deal

First, let's be clear about this. The correct name of this virus is H1N1. Its "nickname" of "swine flu" is a misnomer that can create confusion. *Pigs and pork are NOT a means to catch this virus.* As you have the opportunity to stop false information based on a "nickname," by all means do so.

The H1N1 virus has begun spreading more rapidly in some parts of the world again, including the United States. Vaccines for this virus are expected to be made available by October 2009, in the U.S., and at other times elsewhere. Although this virus was declared "pandemic" in June 2009, that term means only that the disease has been shown to be spreading simultaneously on two or more continents. "Pandemic" does not mean "deadly."

Indeed, H1N1 has not been as severe as many seasonal flu virus strains have been. At the same time, it has shown the capacity to outcompete seasonal flu viruses without being substantially altered. The bad news is that this means it may be less likely to mutate itself into a less infectious form. The good news is that once an effective vaccine is made available, this virus should be much easier to eliminate from the human population.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that the primary means by which this virus spreads is by airborne particles (from coughs or sneezes) and by skin-to-skin contact spreading these particles. For worship, Sunday school, and other interactive elements of congregational life, this means that the most likely means of spreading H1N1 are actions such as shaking hands, offering hugs, or other forms of skin-to-skin contact. It also means that the most effective preventative measure is regular washing of hands or the regular use of hand sanitizers containing alcohol.

What to Do

1. ***Do celebrate worship and the sacraments fully, and be not afraid!***

Use common sense, but always remember this: Jesus is more powerful than germs!

2. ***Have hand sanitizer available for all worshipers at the entrances to your worship space.***

This signals that the congregation cares for the health of all who worship and properly recognizes that other worship practices may be far more likely to become a means of spreading germs than the sacraments are.

3. ***Wash your hands before you touch food you will share with others.***

This simple directive has long been practiced in most cultures on the earth. It has an honored place in historical Christian worship as well in the use of the lavabo, a basin for Communion presiders and servers to wash hands. If having water present is problematic or awkward, the CDC recommends using hand sanitizer containing alcohol. This applies to any who prepare or serve the bread and cup. Just be sure to make this action gracious, not glaring!

4. ***Receive the bread (rather than taking it) from servers who have washed their hands.***

This has actually been the instruction in every official ritual the United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations have published. We all receive from others, rather than taking the bread for ourselves.

When you come to receive the bread, hold out your hands, cupping one beneath the other, rather than trying to take the bread with your fingers. This will allow the server to place the bread (perhaps already dipped in the cup, as per the next instruction) into your hand without touching your hand or fingers directly.

5. ***If you use intinction, let the server who breaks the bread also dip the bread into the cup*** (held by another) and directly serve those receiving.

This reduces the number of "touches" during serving and entirely eliminates the need for those receiving to place their bread, and perhaps their fingers, into the cup.

Alternatively, have those serving the cup tilt it slightly toward those receiving so no one needs to dip his or her fingers into the juice/wine to receive.

This takes a bit of skill. It also takes caring and careful instruction to the congregation. Practice with your servers beforehand if they have not done this before, using water in the cup. Demonstrate this to the congregation as well at the opening of worship so they know what to do. Then get ready to celebrate!

6. ***If any infectious disease is actively spreading where you are***, exchange the peace and greet others in ways that don't require you to make skin-to-skin contact.

Keep in mind that clinical studies have shown that Communion itself poses very low risk for spreading disease. The major ways people catch this or nearly any other flu are through skin-to-skin contact and through airborne particles (coughs and sneezes).

Find what works best to convey peace without skin-to-skin contact where you are. For some, it may mean a gesture of blessings. For others, it may be the peace sign. For still others, it may be bowing and saying words of peace.

And keep in mind that this is to be an "interim practice," not a permanent replacement. There is much to be gained in Christian community by real physical contact. Share up front that you will use these measures only when the likelihood of spreading a contagious disease in your area is fairly high.

7. ***If you normally keep water in the baptismal font, be sure the font is cleaned regularly and the water is fresh.***

If you leave water in the font for a long period of time, it will start to grow harmful bacteria and other agents. So keep it clean! And keep the water fresh, preferably for each service (especially if people will be invited to touch it during the previous service). Pour the existing water into the earth. (Remember, this water will have been blessed, just as the bread and wine of Communion!) Clean the font with an anti-microbial cleaner, rinse thoroughly, and refill.

What Not to Do

1. ***Do not come to worship if you are sick with something you can easily spread to others.***

That applies to pastors, worship leaders, and participants in the congregation. There are no special "Brownie Points" awarded for showing up at worship, work, or anywhere else you can spread what you have. Stay home. Take care of yourself. And get well. Then come to worship and thank God for helping you recover.

2. ***If you are well and able to come to worship, do not fear germs more than you love Jesus!***

Unless your own immune system is seriously compromised, don't bother with face masks, latex gloves, or other medical paraphernalia that give the impression that worship may be an unsafe place to be or that the elements of blessed bread and wine we share may be more physically dangerous than holy. If your immune system is seriously compromised, consider staying home and letting others extend the Lord's Table to you.

3. ***Do not cough or sneeze on others if you do come to worship.***

If you have a cough or are likely to sneeze, practice making it a habit to grab a tissue and cover your mouth each time. Then, if you're in an area where an infectious disease is spreading rapidly, excuse yourself to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer at the earliest convenient time. Remember, it is airborne particles (from coughing and sneezing) and skin-to-skin contact (if you have these particles on your hands) that are by far the most likely means of transmitting H1N1 (Swine Flu) and many other infectious agents.

4. ***Do not use little disposable cups or disposable "all-in-one" packages of elements for Communion (pop-top Jesus?), thinking these might be safer.***

They aren't safer. It's not just what's inside that's the problem. It's what's outside -- the cups or sets themselves and all the people who will inevitably have touched these things without washing their hands before you do. Neither the containers themselves nor the outside of the containers can be kept sterile.

Far better care for creation, the real presence of Christ, and the unity of the body in him can be expressed through the use of a common cup, or multiple chalices poured from a common flagon, or even individual non-disposable cups poured from a common flagon. All of these can be safely cleaned and reused, and none of them requires disposing of the blessed juice or wine in the trash.

5. ***Be not afraid!***

This bears repeating. When we gather for worship, we are there to offer ourselves in praise, thanksgiving, and joy to our God, in songs, prayers, dance, art, music, drama, and with water, Scripture, bread and wine. The perfect love of God who meets us here casts out all fear.

So do worship! And do show reasonable concern for the health of others as you worship, especially during times when illnesses are spreading rapidly. But do not confuse appropriate concern for over-reactive panic. Rejoice, and fear not!

Taylor Burton Edwards (tburtonedwards@gbod.org) is the Director of Worship Resources for the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church.

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