



United Methodist Temple June 2019 Newsletter Volume VI

Our Website: myumt.org

L'Arche

Jean Vanier was born in Geneva, Switzerland on September 10, 1928 and died on May 7, three weeks ago, in Paris. Jean was Canadian; and he was known as the founder of L'Arche.

L'Arche is now a world-wide affiliation of communities in which severely challenged adults and those who feel called to share their lives with them live together.

So often, we believe our identity, our purpose, value lies in our strength, in our ability, in what we have and what we can do. Jean invited us to see that the real disclosure of ourselves lies in our weakness and our vulnerability.

So often, we seek others for their strengths, their possessions, their abilities, and their powers. Jean invited us to receive the witness of those who could offer none of those things.

I would not presume to speak for Jean Vanier, but I do invite you to his books. My favorite, I think, is *Befriending the Stranger*, (Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans, 2005). He also wrote *Becoming Human, Community and Growth, Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus Through the Gospel of John, Made for Happiness, Man and Woman he made Them*, and *The Broken Body*.

It seems so counter-intuitive to me. My weakness is my strength, and my greatest contribution is that I have nothing to offer.

Jean believed that the downward way, the way of poverty and need, of woundedness and vulnerability leads to Jesus. I have the impression that Jean Vanier will be "sainted" by his church in short order. I believe he was blessed by God many decades ago. I cannot speak with his clarity, simplicity, or confidence. I cannot see the world as he saw it.

I do know this: devotion to the vulnerable among us, and to what is vulnerable within us has a strange way of disarming the powerful. Maybe it's because it speaks not to the powerful but to the vulnerable in all of us. Maybe it simply pays no attention to the illusion of power, and has nothing to say to the noise of power.

I notice, also, that L'Arche (French for The Ark) is a word we use for the boat of survival in the midst of storm *and* for the container of the word of God in the journey through the wilderness. I think about that.

**Don't forget Pot Luck lunch following worship this Sunday.
Bring your favorite casserole or dessert.
Fried chicken and drink provided.**

Father's Day



Father's Day is a celebration honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. In Catholic Europe, it has been celebrated on March 19 since the Middle Ages. This celebration was brought by the Spanish and Portuguese to Latin America, where March 19 is often still used for it, though many countries in Europe and the Americas have adopted the U.S. date, which is the third Sunday of June. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March, April and June according to the home nation's customs. It complements similar celebrations honoring family members, such as Mother's Day, Siblings Day, and Grandparents' Day.

Upcoming Events

6/2

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM First Sunday Pot Luck (Genesis Class)

6/5-8

Florida Annual UM Conference

6/5

5:30 PM Methodist Federation for Social Action
No choir rehearsal

6/9

9:00 AM Sunday school
10:30 AM Worship

6/7

7:00 PM Choir rehearsal

6/14

Flag Day

6/16

Father's Day

9:00 AM Sunday school
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM Dine Aouts to Sonny's BBQ

6/18

6:30 PM United Methodist Men

6/19

7:00 PM Choir rehearsal

6/21

First Day of Summer



6/23

9:00 AM Sunday school

10:30 AM Worship

6/26

7:00 PM Choir rehearsal

6/30

UM Children's Home Sunday

9:00 AM Sunday school

10:30 AM Worship



Dine Abouts Lunch

Sunday, June 16th, the Dine Abouts will be having lunch at Sonny's BBQ on South Florida Ave. Interested in joining, call Brenda Dorn (644-5250) or Frances Mundy (646-1300)