

March Laity Minute

There's something I love about a good crossword puzzle. Not only is it a calming way to spend time, it is also a great way to keep my brain working and get away from any type of screen. I even use a special pencil which is always impeccably sharpened and has a deep, dark lead that is somehow satisfying to see on the page. Of course, these crossword puzzles can drive me a little crazy. The creators of the puzzles always know how to send you down the wrong path if you aren't paying attention. One incorrect word can mess up a plethora of others.

When I'm finished working a crossword, I always put the date on it and sit back and look at it for a minute before moving on to another one. It's interesting to see how all of the words are interconnected and rely on each other. One word is intertwined with another, with another, and then another. All the moving parts somehow become solidified and unified into one final answer.

There are times that I get so stumped, I have to look up the answer in the back of the book. This is often after I have almost worn the page through with my eraser or I get just frustrated enough to look up the answer so I can move on. Either way, with time and patience I can reach the end goal of finishing the puzzle successfully.

Unlike my crossword puzzle answer key, our answers aren't always as clear. Luckily, Methodism is packed with resources which can guide us. Additionally, Methodists are encouraged to question, as well. We have a connectional denomination which allows us as ordinary congregation members to be connected all the way up to our Bishops. This is why Methodism is unique. We do not live in our own silos. It is why we are connected so heavily with the church down the road all the way to the church across the state line.

The Church and Centenary are in the process of completing our own puzzle. Each of us is a moving part and we are all connected either directly or indirectly. What impacts one of us impacts us all. During times of frustration we tend to want to look for the answer in the back of the book. Should we look in the Book of Reports or The Book of Discipline or somewhere else?

As we continue to find our way, there will be moments of challenge. There's no doubt we will come up with an answer which we will think undoubtedly is the right one. But, after working through a few other answers, we will have to erase it and try again. We may even have to step back for a moment, clear our minds, and come back with a clearer perspective. However, our connectedness as a congregation is one of the things that keeps us motivated. The love we have for each other cannot be erased easily. What impacts you impacts me and what impacts me impacts you.

We will try our hardest to complete the puzzle the best way we know how. At the very least, we can be assured the Creator of this puzzle knows the answer.

Peace.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jung'.