

May 2022 Laity Minute

By Kelly Price

I am always looking at my calendar. I am consistently adding meetings, appointments, celebrations, and other events to it. In fact, I have already started adding items for 2023. The other day, I was looking ahead to this summer. Thankfully, after this school year ends and before summer school begins, I have a few weeks with no classes. That also means not as many Zooms, not as many meetings, and more dates on the calendar which do not have anything on them. It is almost strange to look at the calendar on my device and see a day with absolutely nothing on it.

To be honest, seeing an empty day on my calendar almost sends me into a slight panic. “Surely I’m missing something,” I muse. I bet I have forgotten to add an event and I will never know what it was. Seeing nothing on the calendar has become out of the ordinary.

But, upon further reflection, this is time actually very ordinary. This is because we are entering a time in the church, starting June 6, of Ordinary Time. This is a stretch of time which cycles around twice a year in the church calendar. One of the ordinary cycles comes after Advent/Christmas Epiphany and the other after Lent/Easter/Pentecost. It is called Ordinary and for a very good reason.

“Ordinary” in the context of the church doesn’t mean “routine.” It doesn’t mean for us to settle in and wait around for the Christmas decorations to appear again. No! In fact, it comes from the Latin phrase, *tempus ordinaruim* meaning “measured time.”

This year, Ordinary Time will begin the day after Pentecost (June 6, 2022). The purpose of this stretch of time is to “support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts and callings discerned during the Easter season and commissioned on the day of Pentecost” (umc.org). In other words, it is a time to act on whatever it was you were thinking about during Lent and Easter. If you didn’t give up anything for Lent, this is when it may catch up with you!

The times of Easter and Christmas are truly special in the church. We use those times to prepare and celebrate. They are times of sadness and times of joy. They are dates on the calendar we love to see. But, Ordinary Time is arguably just as important to put on the calendar. Ordinary Time is not filled with much as far as holidays or the candy which accompany them. What it is filled with is action—the action we take to fulfill our Methodist mission which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the world.

May this time be Ordinary for you. However, I hope you will find it to be anything but.

Peace.

