

Are You Ready for Church Membership?



DO I FIT HERE? This is the question of *acceptance*. First United Methodist Church is a community of people who want to welcome strangers as friends. You will find people here from all kinds of backgrounds and faith experiences. We believe you'll fit right in.

DOES ANYONE WANT TO KNOW ME? This is the question of *friendship*. **Absolutely!** You are a gift from God to us and we want to know you better. Small group classes and service opportunities are a great way to meet people, make friends, and share life's joys and challenges.

AM I NEEDED? This is a question of *value*. People want to feel they *matter*. Opportunities are available for everyone to express their gifts and talents to make FUMC a church that does more than just Sunday morning.

WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF JOINING? This is the question of *benefit*.

- It identifies a person as a genuine believer (Ephesians 2:19, Romans 12:5)
- It provides a spiritual family to support and encourage them in their walk with Christ (Gal. 6:1-1; Hebrews 10:24-25)
- It gives them a place to discover and use their gifts in ministry (1 Corinthians 12:4-27)
- It places them under the spiritual mentoring of godly leaders (Hebrews 13:17, Acts 20:28-29)
- It gives them the accountability they need to grow (Ephesians 5:21)

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF MEMBERS? This the question of *expectations*.
As a member of First United Methodist Church, I will commit myself to...

- ❖ COMMIT TO REGULAR WORSHIP ATTENDANCE
- ❖ DISCIPLESHIP GROWTH
- ❖ PARTICIPATION IN AT LEAST TWO (2) MINISTRIES WITHIN A CALENDAR YEAR.
- ❖ SHARING YOUR FAITH JOURNEY WITH OTHERS
- ❖ SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE GOALS AND MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

Contact the church office to talk further about membership @ FUMC!



Growing in Faith

Craving: a consuming desire, to need desperately

We are torn between a craving to have and the despair of having

➤ **Sin is not just an action, it is a craving.**

We Know What to Do

We know the Consequences

We do it anyway.

"I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it." Romans 7:18-20

➤ **Sin is creates spiritual addicts of us all**

The more fuel you feed the fire, the more fuel it demands.

Delight –enjoyment that entices the emotions, “we remember”

Denial – cannot think objectively, “food without cost”

Desire – loss of self-control, “now we have lost our appetite”

➤ **Our addiction is defined by our “If Only...”**

“If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

NEW BEGINNINGS

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-20

⁴ The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat! ⁵ We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. ⁶ But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

¹⁰ Moses heard the people of every family wailing, each at the entrance to his tent. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled. ¹¹ He asked the LORD, “Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? ¹² Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their forefathers? ¹³ Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ ¹⁴ I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. ¹⁵ If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin.”

¹⁶ The LORD said to Moses: “Bring me seventy of Israel’s elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. ¹⁷ I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you carry the burden of the people so that you will not have to carry it alone.

¹⁸ “Tell the people: ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The LORD heard you when you wailed, “If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!” Now the LORD will

give you meat, and you will eat it. ¹⁹ You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, ²⁰ but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?””

(34) the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah [*graves of craving*], because there they buried the people who had craved other food.