

The Lily Pad

“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.” Solomon 2:1



OUR GOD IS *AWESOME!!!*

“Many generations continue to praise thy works” Psalm 145:4.

CONGRATULATIONS on 170 years of attending to the spiritual needs of the West Bend community, preaching, teaching, sharing, and spreading the Good News Gospel of Jesus Christ!

The celebration of a church anniversary allows Christian people to look simultaneously forward and backward. Our look back at 170 years of this congregation's life gives us courage and hope for the next 170 years. Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church was formed and is identified by our history, by where we have been in our past, the service of the present, and where our history is leading us in the future.

Our faith is shaped by Christian history: words of ancient creeds, worship practices, liturgies and hymns hundreds of years old. As we prepare to celebrate FAUMC 170th Anniversary Jamboree, **October 20st @ 5:30 p.m. and October 21nd @ 10:00 a.m.,** **(SAVE THE DATES)**, we remember the history of this congregation in this community; the generations of families who have been born, baptized, married, and buried here; the traditions that made us pillar of Christianity.

With such a rich and devoted history, past, present, and future, is it just me or does it seem that we've lost our sense of just how **AWESOME** God is? I think the Church has forgotten just how unbelievably **AWESOME** God is. We somehow need to rediscover what an **AWESOME** God we have. How will we ever be willing to jump and trust him to catch us if we don't think he's strong enough? Or to get us through the trials, struggles, and tribulations that life has and will continue to bring our way?

One reason I feel we have lost our view of God's **AWESOMENESS**, is as God's people we've grown comfortable with the greatness of God. God does not **“WOW”** us like he once did. God's almighty power doesn't blow us away and fill us with hope and joy! We've become comfortable and complacent - *if my family and I are doing well that's good enough.*

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35

OUR GOD IS AWESOME!

He is bigger than our biggest words and grander than our grandest conceptions. Because he is God, no words or thoughts of humanity could ever capture his greatness - Sovereign, Almighty, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Infinite, Eternal, and Immortal; no list of adjectives could ever adequately picture the vastness of God.

OUR GOD IS AWESOME!

God is greater than we could possibly imagine; he is more powerful than we will ever know, wiser than all the wisdom, his love and forgiveness is beyond human understanding, his **grace** has no limits, and his holiness is infinite. He has no beginning and no end.

OUR GOD IS AWESOME!

With an **AWESOME** God on our side, where is Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church headed? What will be our contributions to the great legacy of Fifth UMC? What is our role and responsibility to those God has entrusted to our care?

We have a responsibility to our young people, to prepare them for what they will face in life. We have a responsibility to our older persons, to help meet their needs in an ever-changing technology driven world. We have a responsibility to our community, to proclaim the Good News of salvation, and to be examples of Christ's love. During our Anniversary Jamboree we will reflected and recited our history - faith, commitment, and service. I pray that it has and will continue to strengthen, encourage, and motivate each of you, prepare you, excite you, and propel you into your renewed call – you are Disciples of Christ, servant-leaders of Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church. Jesus never let his Disciples dwell on what had already been done. Our purpose is not found in where we have been, but in where God is calling us to go.

Go and be my witnesses. Go and work in the vineyard. Go and make disciples.

OUR GOD IS AWESOME!

Our faith is born and nurtured in our Christian history of what God has done for us in the past; but it should always lead us into our bright and limitless future. Our Anniversary Jamboree will naturally turn your gaze back on our history. But you must let that history be part of your faithful movement into a **brilliant future**. Jesus has commissioned you and sends you into the world with a mission: how will you fulfill it?

God is indeed **AWESOME!** He has all power and authority and yet he loves **YOU!**

His love is **awesome!**
His patience is **awesome!**
His kindness is **awesome!**
His power is **awesome!**
His authority is **awesome!**
OUR GOD IS AWESOME!

Your **AWESOME** God loves you!! What more could we possibly want? Fifth Avenue Family and Friends, we look excitedly and expectantly to our glorious future; remembering what we have been put here to do and determinedly and committedly to where we are going. ***Roll up your sleeves*** my Sisters and Brothers, Disciples of Christ, ***“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”***

Will you say, “YES?” Will you “GO?”

*Certain portions of the Lily Pad were adapted.



Pastor Clarissa & Martin

Fifth Avenue United Methodist
Church

170th

Anniversary **J**amboree