

NOWATA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



What's inside
this issue:

*Upcoming
Events - 3*

*History of our
church - 3*

Comfort from the Serenity Prayer

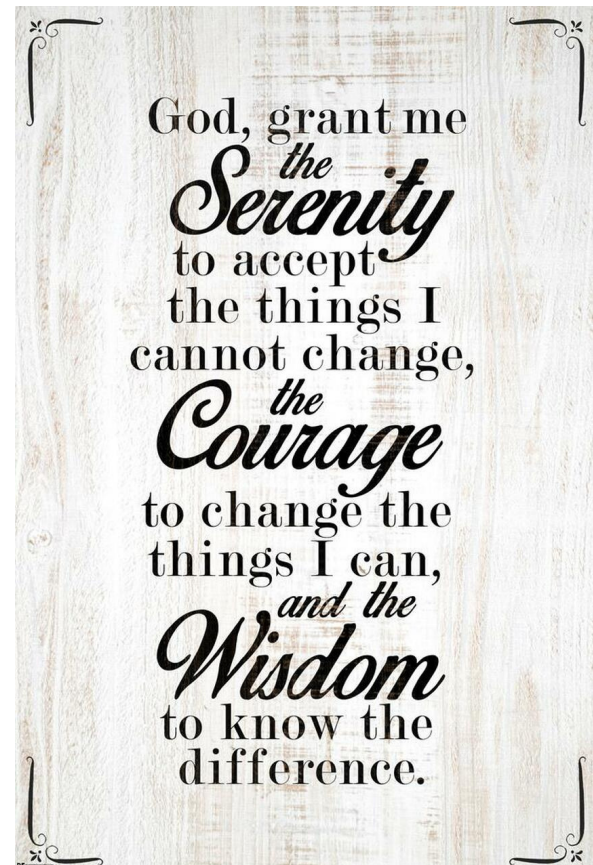
Written by Pastor Jeffrey Rickman

A culturally influential prayer, written by Reinhold Niebuhr, is commonly referred to as the 'Serenity Prayer':

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

This prayer, often associated with 12-step groups, has been a source of great wisdom and comfort for millions of people. In three simple lines, it reminds us simple humans that there are many things outside of our direct control. So much dysfunction occurs when people seek to control things that cannot be controlled.

Complicating this notion is the fact that there are many things that we cannot control, but that we might influence. How much influence do I have in any given scenario? How much influence do I have



before I am complicit or culpable for outcomes?

These are questions of agency. I have been given free will. Collectively, we have all been given the agency to work together to accomplish certain things together, if we so choose. After massive social movements around World War II, many people have wanted to see what powerful things we might accomplish if we can hold together and work towards a common goal.

Science and technology have added to our sense of agency. Over the course of many decades, we have come to see ourselves as demigods, called to control the weather (cloud seeding), climate patterns (Green New Deal), the human brain (pharmaceuticals), and global public health (vaccines). The last century is replete with examples of human interference in these areas going well and going terribly wrong. As John Stewart pointed out, with our vaccines we are currently addressing a problem that was created in a lab (if the lab leak hypothesis is correct). We are using science to correct science.

As in all things, each of us is accountable, not to a government, but to our God. For what will my God judge me? What call does he have on my life daily, regardless of what circumstances meet me outside?

Our hearts desire peace and serenity. Much of that will only be realized on the other side of this life. But much can be afforded here and now if we continue to

hold together in the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is our peace (Ephesians 2:14). If we let the concerns of this age distract us from our peace, well, we will be set adrift in the chaotic waters of life. Hold fast to the anchor of faith in Christ Jesus. Hold fast to your church, the buttress against the forces of the evil one.

You cannot control much. Discernment is difficult. But the call has always been the same: "If one would come after me, let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me." How would Jesus live at a time like this, in a world like this? Where would he go? What would he say? Let's continue to think on these things together...

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Share about your church!

An easy way to promote our church and share about your faith is to 'like' and 'share' our church's posts on Facebook. First, make sure you are following our church from your Facebook profile so that you will see our posts. Then you can like, comment, and share on our posts so that your friends will know more about our community. If you are unsure how to do any of this, please stop by the church office on a weekday so that Pastor Jeffrey or Sara Beth can teach you how!

Coming Up in September

- September 4 from 7am-10am
Delaware Methodist Church
Breakfast
- September 14 at 6:30pm
Administrative Board
meeting
- September 16
Jeffrey R.'s birthday
- September 22
Mary C.'s birthday
- September 24
Roberta M.'s birthday
Bob S.'s birthday
- September 26
Potluck after worship

Happening Every Week

Worship: Sundays at 11am

Women's Prayer Group:
Wednesdays at 10:30am

Bible Reading Hour:
Thursdays at 6:30pm

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
from 9am-Noon

Contact Us

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A History of First United Methodist Church of Nowata (Part 1):

Information gathered & compiled by Mrs. Chas E. Shafer & Floy Y. Shafer

In 1892 the conference record for the Nowata Methodist church begins. The original members began meeting in the home of Alfred Atkinson in 1889 east of where the Savoy Hotel currently stands. They alternated meeting between the Atkinson home, the railroad section house, & the depot. A short time later they began meeting in a small school building located in the location our post office now stands.



In the year 1899 the first Methodist church building was built in Nowata County (Pictured Here). This building was located where our church now stands. It served as the meeting place for Methodist - Presbyterian Federation which lasted from 1902 to 1908 (Or 1909, at which point the Presbyterian's built a church for their congregation).

For more information about our church's history you can visit our website: <http://www.nowataumc.org/history>

Giving to Our Church's Endowment Fund

Giving to our church's endowment fund is a wonderful way to honor our church's history and to also honor a beloved departed member of our church. Many have already given to the Endowment Fund in memory of loved ones, and you can view that list at our website (<https://nowataumc.org/endowment-fund>). If you would like to give in honor or memory of someone or just to honor your church, you may send a check directly to the church with 'Endowment Fund' in the memo line. You can also give directly at lastinggood.org/donate and note 'Nowata UMC Endowment Fund' when asked for where your gift should go. Consider today how you may be a blessing to our church and our community in a way that will make an impact for decades to come.