



June 18, 2025

A Note from Pastor Jon

Embarking on a New Chapter in *The Whole Story*

A Summer Journey through Methodist Roots & Reform

Dear Friends,

Summer is in full swing. The temperatures are rising. The school year is done (all the teachers say, “Hallelujah!”). Swimming pools are open, goslings are waddling through town, the Farm Market is bustling, and folks are off on adventures and vacations.

Here at HUMC, we’re also embarking on a summer journey—a journey into some of our deepest spiritual roots.

This season, we continue *The Whole Story* with a new focus: how followers of Jesus—from the early reformers to John Wesley—wrestled with truth in their time. Guided by the Spirit, they cultivated a living faith, a responsive theology, and a church grounded in grace and justice.

From now through early October, we’ll trace the movement of the people called Methodists—who time and again rose to meet the moment: lifting up those on the margins, challenging injustice, and building communities of belonging. Their story is our story, too. And the call to be a church open to all, by the grace given to all through the Holy Spirit, remains as urgent today as ever.



To launch this next part of our journey, we are thrilled to welcome back the Rev. Jim Waugh to HUMC. Jim will preach at all three worship services on Sunday, June 22.

Jim served as Lead Pastor of Hilliard UMC from 1999 to 2006—a pivotal season in our church’s story, when worship in Warehouse 839 first launched. Jim still holds deep fondness for HUMC and has kept an eye on what we’ve been up to over the years. On the 22nd, he’ll help us reflect on the distinctive shape of Wesleyan practices—habits of heart and life that have sustained Methodists for generations and still shape us today as a people sent to love boldly in the world.



Then, on Sunday, June 29, we'll lean into one of the earliest and most enduring practices of Methodism: storytelling and song. Think: good old-fashioned hymn sing.

From revival tents to circuit riders, the Methodist movement has always been animated by music and testimony. All three worship experiences that Sunday will stir the soul and connect us to the songs that have brought faith to life across generations.

Throughout the summer, we'll explore rich and challenging topics, including:

- How Methodist growth aligned with U.S. expansion—and the faithful tensions that created
- What it means to be transformed by grace, not just once, but over a lifetime
- How an insult became a holy identity
- The Methodist response when the church turned a blind eye to the poor, the excluded, and the forgotten
- And how the Spirit continues to shape our movement today

And don't forget: there are so many ways to connect beyond Sunday morning—to serve, to grow, to give, and to share God's love in action.



You can support Vacation Bible School, walk with us in the 4th of July Parade, donate to the Rummage Sale, get your car washed on the 22nd to support youth attending camp, or shop and serve at the Hilliard Farm Market on Tuesday evenings. Whatever you choose, don't do it alone. Invite a friend. Grow in community.

We hope you'll be part of this shared journey—where history, Spirit, and calling meet.

Pastor Jon



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