



HAYES MEMORIAL
United Methodist

Scripture Meditation

He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. - John 15:2 (NRSV)

In this passage from John's gospel, Jesus uses a metaphor that was very meaningful to the people of Israel. The scriptures often referred to Israel as the vine (see Psalms 80:8-16, Isaiah 5:1-7, and Jeremiah 2:21). Here Jesus declares himself as the true vine and his Father as the gardener. There are a number of messages in this passage, but I want to focus on how pruning allows the vine to produce more and better fruit.

Fruit is another common metaphor in the scriptures and usually refers to good works, a godly life, and good character (see Matthew 3:8; 7:16-20; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9; and Philippians 1:11). The branches that produce the best fruit are those that are pruned just right. Ask any rose grower about the benefits of pruning.

We often get discouraged in difficult times or when it seems we have failed. Perhaps, God is cutting us short and redirecting us. We may be stretching ourselves too thin or moving along a path other than the one he has planned for us. Just as a gardener lovingly cuts back his vines so that he may reap a good harvest, the Lord may be pruning us so that we can bear the best fruit possible.



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ABOUT UNITED METHODIST MEN

United Methodist Men is a creative, supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually and to seek daily his will. Our primary purpose is to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men and in all their relationships.

OUR MAJOR CONCERNS ARE:

- To encourage knowledge of and support for the total mission of The United Methodist Church
- To engage in evangelism by sharing the fullness of the gospel in its personal and social dimensions
- To clarify and speak to the identity and role of the man in contemporary society
- To seek commitment to discipleship
- To study and become familiar with The United Methodist Church, its organization, doctrines, and beliefs
- Men seeking membership in this local United Methodist Men's Fellowship shall subscribe on a personal and individual level to the "Purpose" of
 1. Engage daily in Bible study and prayer.
 2. Bear witness to Christ's way in daily work and in all personal contacts through words and actions.
 3. Engage in some definite Christian service.
 4. There are no fees
 5. Each member come when you can.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is offered through meetings and service. UMM holds morning meetings with a breakfast and a featured guest speaker or program. A diverse group of past programs are listed under Special Programs on this brochure.

MISSION

Provide a forum for fellowship among the men of the church; and Respond to outreach needs of the church, including being the "Go To" group within the church.

BREAKFAST MEETINGS

The first Saturday of every month, from September to June 15 to 25 men gather in the Scout room at 8:00 am. for a big breakfast. Their group consists of a representative cross-section of the church with a good mix of age ranges from 35 to over-50. After breakfast and fellowship, the focus turns to spiritual topics with a devotional and a special program.

In addition to monthly gatherings, the men of HMUMC are very active in hands on ministries. They have supported Camp Sabroske, Campfire USA and other non-profit charitable organizations. They bought the flowers and mulch and work to maintain the grounds of the church. This ministry provides short term assistance to families in times of crisis. Food, clothing, blanket ministry, school supplies and much more are provided when there immediate and critical need.

Every Man shares in Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life.

MAJOR FUND RAISERS

- Sandusky Co. Fair parking all week
- Monthly meeting donations

RECENT PROJECTS

- Sharing and evangelizing through newly developed tape ministry.
- Have parking lot lights installed
- Major contribution to new restrooms
- Sponsored youth to summer camp
- Sponsored local Knothole Baseball team.
- Donation to Blanket Missions
- Beautiful flowers around the church
- New Fellowship Hall draperies & rods
- Sunday School DVD player
- Contributed to the finger printing of adults for "best practices."

ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP

- Annual Corn Roast and Picnic, great family fun & fellowship the entire church can enjoy.
- Annual Breakfast with the Women

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Back to the Wild—a success story on the rescue of wild animals.
- Tour of the New Fremont Fire Station
- A view from a Soldier—slide presentation on Iraq Deployment.
- T. Hogan Report on Katrina's devastation & affect on his family.
- S. Root slide presentation on local tornado.