Questions

Answers

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I hope this doesn’t describe you. You’ve come to our church for quite some time and certain questions have been on your mind, but you didn’t want to ask because ....”

**Instead,** I pray that you feel more than welcome to ask your questions, especially about how faith in Jesus applies to everyday living as a Christian.

Our Reseda congregation belongs to a United Methodist family of churches. What follows is a sample of questions that have been asked by people just like you!

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**Got Questions?**

The Methodist Episcopal Church Conferences first established a Methodist presence in Asia in the late 1800s (India in 1885 and China in 1897), then in Europe (1908), and in Africa and Latin America in the 1920s. The United Methodist Church continues to have a presence in the Philippines. In 1925, the Methodist Church of Canada and several other denominations united to form the United Church of Canada. The Uniting Church of Australia was formed in 1977 by a union of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Australia.

The United Methodist Church has special relationships with the Methodist churches of Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and the Americas, and Great Britain. This includes mutual recognition of ordained ministries, voting rights at each other’s General Conference, inter-action with United Methodist agencies and the Council of Bishops, and partnership in mission programs.
Can God really love me?

For Methodists, we remember that John Wesley struggled with similar feelings. He talked about wanting a sense of assurance. He had quite a crisis of faith before his Aldergate experience, where he finally experienced a life-changing assurance that God loved him. He writes in his journal, “I felt that God loved me. I experienced that God loved me. It was no longer something that was in my head, but it’s something that I felt in my heart.”

United Methodists see the church as the place to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The church is not the place for perfect people, but for those who are “going on to perfection.” For us, being made in the image of Christ is a lifelong process that begins with acknowledging God’s grace and love and accepting that we are forgiven.

Source: www.umc.org/what-we-believe/ask-the-umc

How do we love our enemies?

“In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us a new understanding of how to treat our enemies: love them as God loves them.”

John Wesley wrote several sermons on the Sermon on the Mount: “Let your actions show, that you are as real in love as they in hatred. Return good for evil. ‘Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.’ If you can do nothing more, at least ‘pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you.’ You can never be disabled from doing this; nor can all their malice or violence hinder you …”

Source: www.umc.org/what-we-believe/ask-the-umc
“Fasting has been a part of Methodism from its early beginnings. John Wesley considered fasting an important part of a Christian's life and he fasted weekly. He believed it allowed more time for prayer and was more meaningful if combined with giving to the poor. Wesley did advise caution against extreme fasting and against fasting for those in fragile health.

Although fasting usually refers to any practice of restricting food, there is a distinction between fasting (limiting consumption of food and drink) and abstinence (abstaining from eating meat.) Abstinence from meat one day a week is a universal act of penitence. It is important that you check with your physician before attempting a total fast (no food, water only) for more than 24 hours.”

Source: www.umc.org/what-we-believe/ask-the-umc