



First United Methodist

Become a part of God's family at First UMC

225 Ludlow St. Hamilton, OH 45011

513-896-5683

firstumc@cinci.rr.com

firstumc-ham.org

Rev. Peggy L. T. Garrison, Ph.D., Minister

pastorfirstumc@cinci.rr.com

*Vision: Hamilton First: a growing extended family sharing Christ's love
in the heart of the city (A United Methodist Congregation)*

Mission: To Know Christ and Make Him Known in the World

June 16, 2010

Dear Friends:

What is your favorite hymn? On June 27th, we are going to have an old fashioned hymn sing. Why? Because it is a good way to touch our souls and remind us of what we believe.

Hymns often remind us of a time and place, when we sang them. Maybe you remember a favorite relative singing a hymn and the faith you saw radiating from their face and heard in their voice. Maybe you remember a hymn sung at a funeral and it reminds you of the faith of the person who died. Maybe you like a hymn because your mother-in-law told you about it. Or maybe there are words that are tender to you, or strengthening to you, or....

There are lots of reasons that we love hymns. The Wesleys understood that the tunes people sang often moved faith quickly to their hearts. No wonder Charles wrote so many of them. People were singing the hymns of Charles during the Christmas season or at Easter. They sang of the great joy in singing to God in "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing." They sang of Jesus' sacrifice in "O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done." We love our Charles Wesley hymns.

And then there is the one hymn that everyone in this country seems to know, "Amazing Grace." When we sing it, the hymn can easily feel like it was written just for us.

Hymns, they come in all styles, languages, moods, tempos, and theology. In fact, I am sure that much of the theology I learned was from the hymns that I sang as I grew into maturity.

So what is your favorite hymn? Why do you pick it? Why not sing a few lines, or if you cannot remember the words hum a few bars. I am sure in doing so you will feel better. If you would like to share a hymn with us before the 27th, we will give it to the worship leader to share with the congregation on that day.

I hope I have left you singing, as you finish reading this letter. After all, we have a "Blessed Assurance" that God loves us. Have a good walk with God this week and sing a couple of hymns for God. God has always loved a joyful (even if not beautiful) noise!

Grace and Peace

Rev. Peggy