

# Summer 2018 Caller



## Pastor Ken's Message



*The United Methodist Building  
Maryland Ave., NE  
Washington, DC  
June 15, 2018*

For my summer column, I usually either offer a report on annual conference or write something light and relaxing for the beginning of the summer season. This year, I cannot do that in good conscience. We are at a crossroads as a nation, so I write to encourage the church to step up and be the moral compass and conscience of the nation.

"I was a stranger and you ripped my child from me...." Wait, that's not how it goes! "I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Words of Jesus, the one whom we claim as Savior and have pledged our lives to follow. The immigration policies of our current administration do not welcome the stranger, but instead tear families apart. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children." If that is our measure, then we are failing miserably.

Current policy, being practiced by ICE at our borders, allows agents to separate children from their families. One CNN story shared of a mother whose baby was taken while she was breast-feeding! Others tell of parents being told their children are being taken to bathe and receive new clothes. Children and parents have not seen each other since.

One mother could hear her child sobbing for her in the next room. A father committed suicide after his son was taken. Children are being kept in cages, sleeping on mats, in some locations. An old Walmart has been repurposed in Texas, and while guards, teachers and social workers are doing their best, by their own description, it is now basically an overcrowded prison for children. In order to make enough space, there is discussion of constructing tent cities in Southern Texas, *in the summer*. Over 2000 children have been separated from their parents in the first 2 weeks of June. Consider the heartache, anger and disillusionment you would feel, if your child was taken from your arms and placed in a camp... Is this the kind of nation we desire to be? Will we allow these practices to continue in our name?

The United Methodist Social Principles are crystal clear about this issue: "We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families."

Additionally, persons seeking asylum in the U.S. will no longer be able to use threats of violence from gangs or family members as a primary reason to enter the country. Those who do so will either be turned away or taken into custody as criminals, separated from their family and incarcerated. In order to seek asylum in this country, one must present themselves at the border and officially request asylum, explaining why they have credible fear for their lives. Men and women who travel to the border to seek asylum are doing exactly what the law requires! Asylum law is designed for those fleeing domestic violence, religious persecution and political threats. Now, they are being turned away or held as criminals. To return to their homes is dangerous at best, and will cost them their lives, at worst. I cannot imagine the need to decide that leaving my home and community, traveling to a new land, with few resources, where I do not speak the language, is safer and preferable to staying in my current situation. And now, the options for reaching safety are even narrower than before.

Once again, the teachings of our denomination are clear. *The Book of Resolutions* states:

*The United Methodist Church commits itself to: 1. provide support and opportunities for refugees, asylees, and migrants, including annual conference and local church ministries that promote the Right to Stay in traditional sending countries, Safe Passage in countries of transit, and training for Welcoming and Belonging in receiving locales.*

The scriptures are also very clear about welcoming the strangers in our midst. Here are a few samples:

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The

foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” (Leviticus 19:33-34 NIV)

“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup> Don’t forget to welcome outsiders. By doing that, some people have welcomed angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:1-2)

“When Jesus saw this, he was angry. He said to his disciples, “Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to people like them.” (Mark 10:14)

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,” (Matthew 25:35)

Rewriting our immigration laws has been discussed and deadlocked in congress for more years than I can count. We can hold different opinions on what portions of the law need to change, but these two current policies which separate families and reject most asylum seekers are not part of the law, they are the policies of the Department of Justice and Homeland Security. If you believe, as I do, that these policies are punitive, callous, mean-spirited, non-biblical and stand against our values as both people of faith and Americans, join me in striving to make a difference. Write, email and/or call your representative and Senators, urging them to make changing these policies a priority.

- Senator Ben Cardin  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4524
- Senator Chris Van Hollen  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4654

- Honorable Jamie Raskin  
431 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-5341

The Board of Church and Society urges this action:

**Tell Jeff Sessions to care for immigrants!** Use social media to contact Attorney General Jeff Sessions about the recent policy decisions at the Department of Justice regarding immigrants. [www.umcjustice.org/news-and-stories/tell-jeff-sessions-to-care-for-immigrants-695](http://www.umcjustice.org/news-and-stories/tell-jeff-sessions-to-care-for-immigrants-695)

At our baptism and/or our confirmation we took vows, first committing to "renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world" and second accepting "the freedom and power God gives to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves."

It is time to stand up and be counted. Our souls and that of our nation are at stake.

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### Interfaith Women's Center feels Blessed by HUMC/EBS

The Loyalty Study Group received these very kind words for our service at the Interfaith Women's Center. Sabina Rai, the volunteer coordinator there writes:

Dear Claudia,

THANK YOU and everyone involved in providing and serving dinner on June 2, and collecting all those paper goods, food, cleaning supplies, welcome baskets, toiletries, etc. for the ladies of IW Center. We are so grateful for your generous support! Our ladies loved the food!! Thank you so much for your support and services! Please see pictures below of Pat and Bobbie that I took on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you again for your amazing support! I look forward to working with you again.

With gratitude,

Sabina

A huge thank you is extended to all Hughes members who collaborated by bringing so many items for the welcome baskets. We need your help. We would like to make a visit to provide lunch on a more regular basis but we need help to prepare and serve. We would really appreciate if you could see your way to join us in this outreach. The women really appreciate it! If you are interested in helping with this effort, please let Claudia Simmons or Eloise Woods know. Many hands make the work much easier!!



## Summer Worship Opportunities “Favorites and Questions”

Worship themes for the summer have been developed based on favorite hymns and scriptures and faithful questions from members of the congregation.

### **July 1, 2018 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Series:** Favorite Scriptures  
**Scripture:** Luke 15:11-32  
**Sermon:** “A Man and Two Sons”  
**Theme:** There’s enough grace for all  
A Celebration of Holy Communion

### **July 8, 2018 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Series:** Questions of Faith – Immigration  
**Scripture:** Leviticus 19:33-34; Hebrews 13:1-2  
**Sermon:** “Welcoming the Stranger”  
**Theme:** As faithful Christians how can we serve immigrant communities?

### **July 15, 2018 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Series:** Questions of Faith – Dealing with death & will I see my loved ones in heaven?  
**Scripture:** Psalm 23; Luke 23:32-33, 39-43  
**Sermon:** “Walking in Death’s Shadow”  
**Theme:** God’s presence in earthly life and through eternity

### **July 22, 2018 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Series:** Questions of Faith – The Afterlife: Heaven and Hell  
**Scripture:** Revelation 7:9-17; Luke 3:7-17  
**Sermon:** “Burned as Chaff – Singing with the Multitudes”  
**Theme:** An understanding of hell, heaven and eternity

### **July 29, 2018 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Pastor Ken at “For Everyone Born” – Sharon Skinner, guest preacher

### **August 5, 2018 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Series:** Favorite Scriptures  
**Scripture:** Psalm 100  
**Sermon:** “Worship with Gladness”  
**Theme:** Worship, praise and thanksgiving for God’s presence, love and faithfulness  
A Celebration of Holy Communion

### **August 12, 2018 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Series:** Questions of Faith – Metaphors  
**Scripture:** Genesis 2:4b-15; Isaiah 5:1-2; Amos 9:13-15; Matthew 21:33-41; Mark 4:26-29; Luke 13:6-9; John 18:1-3; John 20:11-18; Revelation 22:1-2  
**Sermon:** “A Garden Runs Through It”  
**Theme:** The power of metaphor as symbols for our faith journey and life story.

### **August 19, 2018 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Series:** Favorite Hymns  
**Scripture:** Psalm 98  
**Sermon:** “Singing Our Praises”  
**Theme:** History and theology of our favorite hymns

### **August 26, 2018 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Series:** Questions of Faith – Why is there so much unrest and violence right now?  
**Scripture:** Mark 13:1-13  
**Sermon:** “Enduring to the End”  
**Theme:** Faithful living in trying times

## Our Graduates



**Aranza Gazca** graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Silver Spring. The following is her inspiring Senior Message that she delivered during the Youth Service this past April:

The first six years of my life were spent in a city on the coast of Veracruz, Mexico. My living arrangement consisted of my single mother, her parents, siblings, and me. Our income for our six member household wasn't much. Many times much of it came from my mom's determination and dedication.

Mom, I could never thank you enough. Not only for making the hard decision of allowing me to experience this life, but helping me through it as well. I know things weren't always easy, but you stuck through it for me and for you. I couldn't have a better role model in my life. I strive to be even a fraction of the incredible and selfless woman you are.

As a little girl I was taught to be grateful for what we had for we did not know what tomorrow would hold. Luxuries were scarce in my family, but love was not. Love and care were never missing from my childhood, even though my biological father was. His absence never truly impacted me as I was constantly surrounded by my aunts, uncles, and cousins. The importance of family was instilled into my core values early on. They made my childhood seem perfect.

And to every member in my family, thank you. All of you have taken part into molding who I am. Every moment that I have shared with all of you holds a special place in my heart. I know we might live far, but you're all always with me. It does take a village.

My family was and still is very dedicated to their Christian faith. During my childhood, we congregated at a local church every Sunday along with other activities throughout the week. I would attend Sunday school and children's choir rehearsal weekly. A relationship with God was made one of my main priorities. Prayer and worship were (and still are) very important to me.

I want to thank my church family here at Hughes-El Buen Samaritano. When I came into this church 7 years ago everyone welcomed my family and I with open arms. I have been able to count on you from that first Sunday that I attended service. You each have set examples for me to follow to be able to continue growing my relationship with God.

One day, my mom was introduced to a single young man. Soon after meeting, they got married. It was decided that my mom and I would immigrate to the United States shortly after their wedding as that is where he lived. This is my parents' story, but it is part of mine as well. I left everything I had ever known behind. From then on, my life was to be lived in a suburban neighborhood in Maryland. As a seven year old, I felt that I was living a completely new life. It was a whole new world I had been placed into.

And in that new world, I am fortunate to have been living with my diligent and attentive dad along with my mom and two sisters.

Dad, as a little girl I would pray and ask God for a dad before I went to bed. And when my prayers were answered it was one of the best things that God could have given me. You have loved me and taken me as your own daughter. You have taught me so much and everyday you show how much you care for me. I'm so thankful for every moment we have been able to spend together as father and daughter.

I have been in the States for eleven years now and it's no longer a different world. This is where my mind has learned to think in Spanish, but communicate in English. I have used my religion and education to form my own standings and opinions on important issues. I have taken my experience in poverty and privilege to try to understand all parts of society. I have been able to discover who I am.

Hopefully, what you've heard is just the beginning of my story. Throughout these

short and exciting seventeen years I have been able to discover what is love for me. Love is coming home to my mom and her smile everyday after school. Love is greeting my dad as he walks in the back door after work. Love is seeing my sisters sitting up on the bed together and watching t.v. Love is calling my grandparents and hearing their laughter over the phone. Love is staying up until 3 am with my group of friends. Love is all around me but throughout these displays of love, I have been able to see God's love. His love has been with me since I can remember. And even though the relationship I developed with God has been tested due to my contemporary surroundings, His love still surrounds me when my thoughts wage war. Love has constructed my personality and mentality. And it is because of His love that you are able to see this open-minded, hardworking, and caring young woman standing here today.

**En Español:** Los primeros seis años de mi vida fueron vividos en una ciudad en la costa de Veracruz, México. En mi casa vivía con mi madre soltera, sus papás y hermanos, y yo. Yo sabía que no teníamos mucho dinero y muchas veces gran parte del ingreso de la casa venía de la dedicación y determinación de mi mamá.

Mamá, nunca podría agradecerte lo suficiente. No solo por tomar la difícil decisión de permitirme vivir esta vida, sino también por ayudarme en ella. Sé que las cosas no siempre fueron fáciles, pero seguiste luchando para mí y para ti. No podría tener una mejor modelo para seguir en mi vida. Me esfuerzo por ser una fracción de la increíble y cuidadosa mujer que eres.

Cuando era niña me enseñaron a estar agradecida por lo que teníamos, no sabíamos lo que deparaba el mañana. Los lujos eran escasos en mi familia, pero

el amor no. El amor y el cuidado siempre estuvo presente en mi niñez, a pesar de que mi padre biológico no. Nunca pude sentir su ausencia, ya que estaba rodeada constantemente por mis tías, tíos y primos. La importancia de la familia fue puesto en mis valores fundamentales desde pequeña. Hicieron que mi infancia pareciera perfecta.

Y a todos los miembros de mi familia, gracias. Todos ustedes han participado en moldear lo que soy. Cada momento que he compartido con todos ustedes tiene un lugar especial en mi corazón. Sé que podríamos vivir lejos, pero ustedes siempre están conmigo.

Mi familia era y todavía está muy dedicada a su fe cristiana. Durante mi infancia, nos congregamos en una iglesia todos los domingos y asistíamos a otras actividades durante la semana. Yo iba a la escuela dominical y era parte del coro de niños. Una relación con Dios se

convirtió en una de mis principales prioridades. La oración y la adoración eran (y siguen siendo) muy importantes para mí.

Un día, mi madre conoció a un joven . Poco después, se casaron. Decidieron que mi mamá y yo inmigraríamos a los Estados Unidos poco después de su boda, ya que es donde él vivía. Esta es la historia de mis padres, pero también es parte de la mía. No note que iba a dejar todo lo que había conocido detrás. A partir de entonces, mi vida se vivió en un barrio suburbano de Maryland. Cuando tenía siete años, sentí que estaba viviendo una vida completamente nueva. Era un mundo completamente nuevo.

Y en ese nuevo mundo, tengo la suerte de haber estado viviendo con mi padre diligente y atento junto con mi mamá y mis dos hermanas.

Papá, de niña oraba y le pedía a Dios que me diera un papá. Y cuando mis oraciones fueron respondidas, fue una de las mejores cosas que Dios podría haberme dado. Me has amado y me has tomado como tu propia hija. Me has enseñado mucho y cada día muestras cuánto me quieres. Estoy muy agradecida por cada momento que hemos podido pasar juntos como padre e hija.

He estado en Estados Unidos durante once años y ya no es un mundo diferente. Aquí es donde mi mente ha aprendido a pensar en español, pero comunicarme en

inglés. He utilizado mi religión y educación para formar mis propias opiniones sobre múltiples temas importantes. He tomado mi experiencia viviendo humildemente y en privilegio para tratar de entender todas las partes de la sociedad. En estos años Pude descubrir quién soy.

Espero que lo que han escuchado es solo el comienzo de mi historia. Durante estos cortos y emocionantes diecisiete años he podido descubrir lo que es amor para mí. El amor es cuando llego a casa y veo a mi mamá y su sonrisa todos los días después de la escuela. El amor es saludar a mi papá cuando entra por la puerta trasera después del trabajo. El amor es ver a mis hermanas sentadas en la cama juntas y viendo tele. El amor es hablar con mis abuelitos y oír sus risas por el teléfono. El amor es quedarme despierta hasta las 3 de la mañana con mi grupo de amigos. El amor me rodea, pero a través de estas muestras de amor, he podido ver el amor de Dios. Su amor ha estado conmigo desde que puedo recordar. Y a pesar de que la relación que desarrollé con Dios ha sido probada debido a mi entorno contemporáneo, su amor todavía me rodea cuando mis pensamientos declaran guerra. El amor ha construido mi personalidad y mentalidad. Y es por su amor que puedes ver a esta joven de mente abierta, trabajadora y atenta que se encuentra aquí hoy.



**Leah Abaydan-Dandin** graduated from Einstein High School. Her moving speech: at the Youth Service in April: follows:  
 Since before birth, God decided I would grow up to be a Methodist woman. From the start, I was taken care of by the

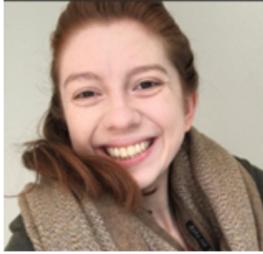
loving Methodist people in this church who taught me how to lead a good Christian lifestyle. For as long as I can remember, my Sundays were filled with attending Sunday school with Mrs. Broadhurst and Mrs. Cooley and learning about God's word. Every Christmas, I participated in the Church play.

My most memorable memory around Christmas time was when Mrs. Odell was directing the Christmas play. She was firm, but still knew how ease the stress of being in the Christmas play. I remember after play rehearsal, my mom was late to pick me up, and I started crying. I was really little and was still attached to my mom. Mrs. Odell comforted me and let me wait in her car with her husband. I'll never forget how loving and caring she was to everyone. My mom and I really miss seeing her at church.

As I got older, I became an acolyte, which meant I had to be at church more often. Luckily, it was my opportunity to learn more about God. I learned that it is important to forgive people who have done wrong, to not judge, and most importantly, to love. I have felt so much love from everyone at Hughes, and even though my dad isn't in my life, that doesn't really matter. The guidance from the people at Hughes have really helped me for the past eighteen years. I truly think it takes a village to raise a child, and that is what being a part of Hughes has done for me. I'll always have memories of going to Rock and jamming out to music in the car with Maryanne. Or Camp Hope when I got paint all over my shorts. If you were wondering, yes, I still have those shorts in my closet, and no, the paint did not come off. I'll always remember baking cookies at Mr. and Mrs. Weaver's house every year during Christmas and caroling at the nursing homes. I would like to thank Ms. Skinner for keeping me under control for all these years. I know I can be unruly sometimes, but she's kept me in line for all these years. Thank you to Mrs. Singh and Mr. Rodriguez for taking care of me when I was a baby, thank you to Mrs. Gartrell for teaching me how to acolyte, I know I'm really difficult to teach, but thank you for being patient with me. Most of all, thank you to everyone at Hughes for being in my life. It has been a wonderful eighteen years.

The below photos are from the reception that followed the Youth Service on April 22nd:





**Danielle Wilson** graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park majoring in Mathematics and Economics and has been accepted to American University School of Economics where she will pursue graduate studies in the fall. While studying at Maryland, Danielle continued skating, was active member and president of the University of Maryland Synchronized Skating team.

On May 25th, **Abby Broadhurst** graduated from Towson University. She is in the BS/MS Occupational Therapy Science program and will receive her BS degree on May 25th. She will then continue at Towson to complete the Masters portion of the program. Just recently she received notification that she has received one of three mental health affiliation scholarship opportunities in 2019 at Johns Hopkins Hospital.



On May 23rd, **Kate Broadhurst** graduated from the University of Baltimore with her M.S. degree in Interaction Design & Information Architecture. She will continue her current employment with Eleven Peppers as an Art Director.

### Language Classes Outreach Concludes Spring Session

Our spring ESL session once again demonstrated our commitment to the Wheaton community. After pretesting and placing students at the appropriate level, Cindy Ferris, Jun Staley, Penni Barnett, Deja Lockwood, Jose Rodriguez, Matt and Susan Powell, Kathy Ripley and community members, Hind Essayegh and Ashley Lipps began tutoring 75 adults from 13 different countries. The largest group was from El Salvador, but we also had students from such countries as Morocco and Azerbaijan.

Seven weeks later we held a culminating activity (party) where everyone had a chance to practice their

English and sample foods from the home countries of our students and tutors. We are proud that 17 students moved to a higher level based on a post test given at the last session. Mark Weaver provided babysitting support and Macario Huashuayo called absent students.

The next round of classes will begin October 3 and continue on Wednesday nights through November 14. If you would like to become involved in this important outreach ministry, contact Linda French, Emma Wilson or any of our other volunteers. We can always use tutors, support help and prayer partners.

