



Wednesday 16 December 2020

Unprecedented

Lake Superior State University, each year, publishes a list of words they believe should be banned from the English language due to misuse, overuse, or redundancy (such as “proactive”--active before being active?!?).

I want to suggest that this year's banned word be **unprecedented**, and for the following reasons:

- Injudicious overuse. I realize that we've experienced much we are not used to but to tag something as “unprecedented” implies that it had never happened before. But, as the writer of Ecclesiastes wisely points out, “There is nothing new under the sun.” (Eccl 1.9)
- Aren't we tired of hearing the word “unprecedented,” which seems to be used as the leading descriptor for everything?

“But, pastor, what about . . . ?” – Sure, there have been unusual things happening over the last few years. There are a number of so-called “norms” President Trump has deviated from during his time in office, and maybe a few for the first time, but not everything he has done has been unprecedented. Many of our presidents have introduced something new (Clinton's sax, Nixon's trip to China).

Even the “novel” (another word we can put on vacation) Coronavirus and COVID-19 are hardly unprecedented. Consider the one-third to one-half of Europeans who died from bubonic plague in 1347-48 and the millions who died of the flu pandemic of 1918 (and many other plagues and pandemics in between).

There is, however, one special case in which the word **unprecedented** fits quite well: The birth of Jesus of Nazareth, God's Son, following an inexplicable pregnancy involving the Holy Spirit, and during which the second person of the Holy Trinity entered our world to participate in life with humanity. God had not done such a thing until then, and since no one else is God, no one else had done it either. God's incarnation in the baby Jesus was truly **unprecedented**.

There would be several unprecedented events in Jesus' life—walking on water, for example—and then there's that unprecedented resurrection, something no one else had done before.

In a world of sound bytes, over-the-top advertising, Tweets, and sensationalized news, we need a way to help people see just how unique, wonderful, and amazing Jesus Christ is. Maybe, if we can limit the use of the word **unprecedented** to describing only him, we may get more people's attention so that they may hear the Good News.

- Pastor Mark

Tecumseh Fresh Food Initiative

Our fresh food distributions are done for 2020 and we have been blessed with wonderful volunteers and more than adequate funding (which allows us a strong start in 2021). Thank you to all who have supported this ministry with your presence, prayers, or gifts.

The Stats: November – 175 families served
December – 190 families served

You may wonder where we get the food to distribute. Our supplier is the South Michigan Food Bank, who supplies 62 sites with over 14 million pounds of food.

Helping Struggling Families Through “Adopt-a-Family”

In years past we have shared the needs of several families among our congregation, but have not been able to do so this year due to being shut down by the Coronavirus pandemic. The Women of Faith have stepped in to help by adopting the “Adopt-a-Family” program on behalf of Tecumseh UMC.

Pop Can Tabs for Ronald MacDonal House

That aluminum tab on the top of your pop can (or beer or soup can or anchovy tin) can be used to generate funds by recycling that help the Ronald MacDonal House with their expenses. Save them and drop them off in the church office.

Turn Cancelled Stamps Into Sunday School Literature

Children in Latin America, Spain, and the U.S.A. receive Spanish-language Sunday School literature printed with the help of funds generated by canceled postage stamps sold to stamp collectors. We participate by collecting, trimming, and sorting used stamps.

If you can help, please do the following:

- Save your envelopes with **stamps** (not printed postage)
- Trim the stamps, leaving at least **one-quarter inch** around the stamp
- **Drop off** the trimmed stamps in a plastic drawer on the shelf outside our Choir Room

Tecumseh Service Club Monthly Donations

We’re focusing on the following items to give to the Tecumseh Service Club so that they can help people and families in need in NE Lenawee County:

December – blankets

January – toilet paper & feminine hygiene products

Drop off donated items in a bin near the North door of the church.



Easy Ways to Help Tecumseh UMC Financially

We are tapped into several programs that return cash to Tecumseh UMC each time a purchase is made and registered:

PRAIRIE FARMS – Save the caps from Prairie Farms milk. Connect to the Prairie Farms website at www.PrairieFarms.com, select “Our Caps Your Cause” and then select “Tecumseh United Methodist Church” from the drop down list. Enter the codes found on the inside of the caps and we receive 5 cents for each. You can also drop off caps at the church office.

TUCKEY’S BIG BOY RESTAURANT – Write “#22 10%” at the top of your meal check. The restaurant will send us 10% of the value of your meal.

JERRY’S MARKET – Drop off your Jerry’s Market receipts in the basket outside the Choir Room or the church office. Jerry’s will return 2% of the pretax amount.

UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund

The United Methodist Committee on Relief—UMCOR—has been working with health boards, medical staffs, disaster management coordinators, and faith leaders to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. It has become clear that more needs to be done with relief efforts in America and around the world added to the mix.

If you want to help, please send a check to Tecumseh UMC. We’ll log it and forward the contributed funds to UMCOR, which will apply all of it to its COVID-19 relief work.

Make the check out to – **Tecumseh United Methodist Church**

Write on the memo line – **UMCOR COVID Response Fund**

Items Needed by the Tecumseh Service Club:

canned fruit
canned tuna and chicken
canned soup
canned vegetables (no corn or beans)
oatmeal
“helper” meals (hamburger, tuna, etc)
jams & jellies
Jello & pudding
macaroni & cheese
pancake mix & syrup
pasta & spaghetti sauce

Christmas Eve - More Music is Welcome

We have room for more music for Christmas Eve. It can be simple (a favorite Christmas carol) or a bit more complicated (pull off J. S. Bach’s “Christmas Oratorio” and we’ll use it).

Wilnella can help with accompaniment and we are recording performances in our sanctuary.

Contact Pastor Mark if you want to help (tecumcpastor@gmail.com, 517-260-1315).