“Dogged by Relationships”

Shoan Sibary has confessed to the DAILY MAIL, “I get rid of dogs as soon as they stop being cute puppies.” Indeed, she has given away four dogs in four years.

She writes:
I’m a serial dogamist. In the early stages of the relationship I’m head over heels. I attend all the puppy classes. I don’t even begrudge picking up dog poo. There’s nothing I wouldn’t do for my new canine companion. But the moment things get complicated and they develop a problem, I don’t covet a dog-free existence like any other sane person might. Instead, I start wondering if there is another, more suitable dog out there. Maybe one that is less bouncy, less barky, less inclined to molt everywhere. And so the new search begins and I cannot rest until I have found a replacement puppy to lie adoringly at my feet.

She uses a term found on the social network Facebook. You can check your relationship status, e.g. single, or in a relationship, or engaged, or married, or in a civil union, or divorced, or widowed. But one status you can’t choose is “It’s complicated.”

Whether in marriage, out of marriage, at work, in the family, or wherever you interact with others, relationships can be complicated.

So often our relationships are like a puppy waiting to turn into a real dog. We begin with excitement and optimism, but then it becomes complex. It can be fun and interesting and invigorating but then reality sets in. Everybody loves the puppy stage, but every puppy eventually becomes a real dog.

Consider how...
- During dating there may be “puppy love,” but it can turn into “dog days” of clashing.
- Sibling rivalry and jealousy kick in.
- Innocent children turn into teenagers, and teenagers turn into independent college students.
- The new supervisor at work is a delight until they make changes that are difficult.
- Infatuation gives way to irritation.

How do we deal with complicated relationships? Well, it starts, and ends with love—real love, committed love. Love that fulfills its obligations is real love.

“Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.” (Romans 12:9, NLT)

To enjoy long-term committed relationships we must accept the long-term responsibilities that come with them.

During the first three Sundays of February we’ll be teaching around the theme of relationships. Unless you live alone in a cave, you have relationships, and they can be complicated. We’ll see what the Bible teaches us about relationships and navigating them.
While the early Methodist movement in the United States was directed by English speaking leaders, there is a strong tradition of German speaking ones who helped develop the church we know today as the United Methodist Church.

One such person is Philip Otterbein. He was born in Dillenburg, Germany in 1726 and attended a German Reformed Church seminary and was ordained in 1749. Otterbein left for America in 1752 and settled in Pennsylvania. Though a German Reformed minister, Otterbein began teaching classes in 1773 in the Wesleyan tradition. He moved to Baltimore, Maryland in 1774 to pastor a new church. The day he began this new assignment, he met Francis Asbury and the two remained friends for the rest of their lives. When Asbury was ordained Methodist Bishop in 1784, he asked Otterbein to be one of four clergy to lay hands on him on December 27, 1784. This is the date that the Methodist Episcopal Church was officially organized.

In 1767 or 1768, Otterbein attended a worship service at Long’s Barn near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. There he heard Martin Boehm, a Mennonite, preach. After the service Otterbein told Boehm “Wir sind Bruder” which translates to We are Brothers. Boehm was a bishop in the Mennonite faith but felt he needed a more deepening experience. He was drawn to Otterbein and the Methodist movement. He was eventually excommunicated from the Mennonite faith for being too evangelical. Unlike Otterbein, Boehm was born in the U.S. in 1725.

Eventually Otterbein and Boehm formed a separate Protestant denomination. The first meeting took place in 1798 at Otterbein’s church in Baltimore. Two years later an organizational conference was held. The new denomination was called the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. They adopted a German translation of the Methodist Episcopal book of discipline.

Boehm died in 1812 and Otterbein in 1813. The two men had sown the seeds of a new church which would later, through merger, become part of the United Methodist Church. Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio is named for Philip Otterbein.

One last interesting note, on June 27, 2016, the Mennonite faith restored Boehm’s credentials and made him a Bishop Emeritus at Boehms’ Chapel near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Mennonites wanted to correct the “small thinking” of their leaders at the time of his excommunication.

Next month, we will discuss another German speaker, Jacob Albright, who was instrumental in the formation of the United Methodist Church.

Do you have any MUMC history you would like to share with the congregation? Please send it to:

Don Humphrey
7330 Holly Park Drive
Concord OH 44060-6704

Or email to dhumphrey@ameritech.net

ASBURY FELLOWSHIP
Sponsored

VALENTINE DINNER & Performance by Mentor’s TOP 25
Saturday, February 11th in Fellowship Hall

Social Hour with appetizers—5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:00 p.m. & TOP 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are $25 per person and are available at the Sign-Up Center (Atrium outside Fellowship Hall) on Sunday mornings. Choices for dinner are Basil Encrusted Prime Rib, Salmon En croute, Pasta Primavera (meatless). Complete menu can be seen at the Sign-Up Center.

All church members and friends are invited. If you have questions or need to make reservations by
KNOW
- Sunday School
  - Children 0-4 years old—Early Childhood Area
  - K-2nd Grade—Room 107
  - 3rd-4th Grade—Room 103
  - 5th-6th Grade—Room 104
  - Family Worship is FIRST Sunday of the month & K-6th graders remain in worship with families
  - http://www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school

GROW
- StuCo 56, 5th & 6th grade youth group
  - Wednesday, February 1 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.
    Making dinner for Project Hope
  - Sunday, February 5—Souper Bowl of Caring
  - Sunday, February 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
  - Sunday, February 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
    MEET at Busy Bees Pottery
    - http://mentorumc.org/stuco-56 for details

MOPS & MOMSnext Monthly Meeting
- Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 10 from 9:30 to noon—Meeting
- Friday, February 24 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.
  Discussion Groups
- http://www.mentorumc.org/mops

SHOW
- Souper Bowl of Caring—Sunday, February 5
  - StuCo 56 kids will be holding soup pots for your donations that will go directly to Project Hope for the Homeless in Painesville

MOPS & MOMSnext Annual
- Malley’s Easter Candy Fundraiser
  Order will be taken after worship February 12—March 12

CHILDREN’S CHOIR (1-6 Grade)
- Rehearses Sundays, 10:15-10:45 in Room 112

CHERUB CHOIR (3 YR. OLDS/Kindergarten)
- Rehearses Sundays, 10:15-10:35 in Room 104

Sunday School Servant sign up for SPRING
- http://www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school

NEWSLETTERS & CHILD REGISTRATION FORMS:
- http://www.mentorumc.org/children

MUMC LIBRARY . . .
We have Pray & Play Story Time on Thursday mornings from 9:00-9:30 a.m. for preschoolers age 1 and up.

There are stories, songs, finger plays and, of course,
JOIN US ON THE PATH (Women’s Retreat)
Saturday, March 4th - Sunday, March 5th
The Hilton Garden Inn, Twinsburg

Relax, reflect and connect. Join us as author Carole Hamm leads us in a “Springtime of the Soul” experience of personal discovery designed to awaken and deepen our faith. **Registration forms are available at the Sign-Up Center on Sunday mornings, online, or in the Church Office.** Overnight cost with meals ranges from $110-$175 (financial assistance may be available). This retreat is open to all women of the church, friends, and family.

Registration forms are available at the Sign-Up Area (in the Atrium outside Fellowship Hall) Sunday mornings, online, or in the Church Office. Registration deadline: February 8th with balance due February 21st. Overnight cost with four meals ranges from $110-$175. (A limited amount of financial assistance is available on a first come, first served basis.)

The UMW is collecting monetary donations to purchase items for the Valentine boxes (we will purchase the items so all the boxes are identical). You can place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday mornings (be sure to note “Valentines”) or leave it in the Church Office. The last Sunday for donations will be February 5th.

**PARENTS:** Please email your college students address to Gayle at gavery@mentorumc.org or drop it in the offering plate or leave it in the Church Office.

**ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME TO HELP PACK BOXES** on Monday, February 6th at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**RUTH-ESTHER CIRCLE MEETING:**
Our next meeting is scheduled for February 14th at 9:30 a.m. We will be cleaning and putting away the candle holders from the Christmas Eve services. If you have a small paring knife, please bring it with you. This is a time of fellowship, work, and refreshments. Please join us!

**NEW 3Cs MEDICAL MISSION UMVIM TRIP** being planned: August 1-15, Ganta Hospital, Liberia
Looking for current medical professionals or young adults looking to enter the mission field to work in ministry at the Ganta Hospital in Liberia. Current passport and yellow fever shot required. Total cost for air travel and in-country expenses $3,000.

**Informational meeting on Sunday, February 12th at North Canton Faith at 2:00 p.m.** If you would like more information, contact Kathy Dickriede at kdickriede@gmail.com or Ben Lewis, lewisbw@mountunion.edu. Please share this information with others that you think might be interested.

**WE HAVE MANY WAYS TO SERVE & SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN OUR COMMUNITY . . .**

We have a number of ongoing mission opportunities that are always looking to grow:

- **More Than A Meal**—Served in Fellowship Hall on the last Saturday of each month. This ministry is seeking servants for the monthly meals. The meal is served at 5:30 p.m.
- First Wednesday of each month a meal is prepared and taken to **Project Hope for the Homeless** in Painesville. These meals are prepared and delivered to the shelter. Project Hope takes care of serving the meal.
- **School Partnership Program**—This is a very exciting ministry where we partner with Catalyst Ministries and serve in the Painesville Elementary Schools each week. Two volunteers needed for two hours one day a week and we work with the classroom teacher on whatever the needs are in the classroom. This is a great way to get to know the staff and kids. We also help provide for the needs of that classroom.
Is God calling YOU to be a part of 
ROYAL FAMILY KIDS CAMP   —  June 4-9, 2017?

Royal Family Kids Camp is a week long camp for traumatized children ages 7 through 11. Most of the children are Lake County residents. Many are in foster care because of abuse or neglect. At camp, the kids enjoy numerous activities including swimming, hiking, basketball, archery, campfires, games, etc. They attend chapel twice a day for Bible study, a puppet show and object lesson that reinforces the theme of the week. The most important part of Camp is the experience of Christ's love the kids receive through the kindness and compassion of RFK volunteers. Relationships are made at camp that are transformational for the kids. Then after camp, the kids are invited to participate in a mentoring and club program that meets throughout the school year allowing an on-going connection with the kids. (Volunteering for Camp does not require a commitment to volunteer at Club.)

This year's Royal Family Kids Camp will be held Sunday through Friday, June 4-9. If you are interested in serving at Camp, please pick-up an application at the Sign-In Center (Atrium outside Fellowship Hall). There will be all-day training held on Saturday, April 22nd. Please contact Pastor Bev Wrobel for more information, blwrobel@mentorumc.org or 440-255-3496, etc. or visit the national website at royalfamilykids.org. Our local RFK #271 is offered through Willoughby Hills UMC.

PLEASE NOTE: Applications need to be turned in by FEBRUARY 28th, as all volunteers must be interviewed, background checked, and fingerprinted.

The Singing Angels in Concert — Friday, March 31st

Save the date! Royal Family “KIDS SINGING FOR KIDS” Concert

Mentor UMC will host this year’s Annual Fundraiser for Royal Family Kids Camp. The concert will again feature the renowned SINGING ANGELS of Northeast Ohio. Tickets will be available in the Church Office in February.

MUMC PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration is open for the 2017-2018 school year. Call 255-3496, ext. 23, to register or email us at mumpreschool@mentorumc.org. You can also visit our website at mentorumc.org/preschool to see all of the exciting things we have to offer. Hurry! Spots are filling up fast and registration is now open to the community.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"NOT IN MY BACKYARD?!"

A Comprehensive Look at Opiate & Heroin Abuse in Our Neighborhood

St. John Vianney Wellness Ministry in cooperation with Lake County ADAMHS Board, Lake County Health District, Lake County Narcotics Task Force & Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers will present “Not in My Backyard?!" on FEBRUARY 16TH from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the St. John Vianney Center, Bellflower-Mentor. This is for teens, adults concerned about the drug epidemic. Please join us for the kick-off of TRANSFORMATION LAKE COUNTY from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the 7575 er Road, Mentor. This is for parents young and any-concerned about the epidemic. RSVP but
"THE JOURNEY" CONTINUES . . .

New Journey groups are starting and ongoing groups are welcoming new members!

Journey groups are Mentor UMC’s long-term small groups, available on many different days and at many different times of the day, which meet to encourage each other in our faith and help us grow on our journey toward Christ-centered discipleship.

If you would be interested in joining a group, please contact Pastor Quincy: qwheeler@mentorumc.org.
TIME TO PLACE YOUR EASTER FLOWER ORDER

This year we are offering lilies, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and hydrangeas. The prices are as follows:

- Tulip, Daffodil or Lily $8
- Hyacinth $8
- Hydrangea $10

Please send your order along with your check to The Altar Guild, c/o Mentor United Methodist Church, 8600 Mentor Avenue, Mentor OH 44060.

The Altar Guild will also have a table set up at the Sign-Up Center (Atrium outside Fellowship Hall) on Sunday, March 12, 19 & 26 with forms to order plants. The last day to order will be March 26th so we can place our order and they can be delivered for Easter.

Your plants may be picked up after the 11 a.m. service on Easter morning.

Please indicate how many you want:

- _____ Tulip
- _____ Lily
- _____ Daffodil
- _____ Hyacinth
- _____ Hydrangea

Total $ ________________

(PLEASE PRINT NAMES)

From _______________________________________________________________________________________

In memory of ____________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

In appreciation of _______________________________________________________________________________