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Prayer



By Judy Goodrow

God of logic,
create in us a sense of
wonder
encourage us to question
empower us to ponder
and encircle us with love
as we wrestle with this thing
we call faith.
Amen.

A Conference E-Pistle

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Reflections From
The Indiana-Kentucky Conference



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*"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?
But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:16 NRSV)*

The brain is amazing.

Today, I finished eating while I was typing another article, checking email and ordering a new phone. Meanwhile, my husband set down a bowl of scraps for our dog, Nueman, who licked the bowl clean. As I worked, I daydreamed about getting another serving of fruit, so I absent-mindedly wandered to the kitchen. Along the way, I must have picked up a bowl from the floor, found the fruit salad, scooped it into the bowl, and took a bite. Delicious.

Then, a number of small facts began to click into place. What happened to my fork? Why does this bowl look different? What was that suspicious-looking crumb floating in my fruit? I glanced with trepidation toward my chair, and there was my bowl, perched on the end table. The bowl I had in my hand was Nueman's. Now, I really do love my dog, but I know where that tongue has been.

The brain is amazing. Every moment the human mind collects 11 million pieces of information, but we're only conscious of about 40. To those 40, we apply reason and logic. Sometimes we make decisions, and sometimes we swallow whatever we've been conditioned to believe - even when our brains cry out in protest. We do that especially in church. We accept because we're too afraid or too passive to explore the options.

Jesus was an expert at flipping that script. Jesus asked questions and told stories that exposed the contradictions we ignore. He wanted people to use their brains.

Faith and logic don't have to be enemies. If something doesn't make sense, ask questions. Struggle and wonder until you develop your own faith. And for Christ's sake, use your brain.

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Sincerely,

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The Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ was selected as a Constant Contact All Star in 2011, 2012 & 2013



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