

Message for Sunday, June 7, 2026

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Title: Storytelling

Welcome

Announcements: Giving Options... online, basket, box in back. Special offering Peace with Justice; Any kind of cookies are needed as well as volunteers for hospitality; Celebration of Life Service for Alex Julian will be on Saturday, June 13th at 12:30PM with reception to follow; Knit Crochet Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. That's this Wednesday; Church Office is going remote during vacation starting June 14th. The office will be physically open on Wednesdays from 9AM to 3PM;

Fellowship of Love

Song

Call to Worship

L: Shout with joy,

P: for God has blessed us.

1

L: Sing with praise,

P: for God is here.

L: Worship and pray,

P: for God is listening.

Unison Prayer

Blessed God, thank you for blessing us in your myriad ways.

Thank you for trusting us to be your people, to shine with your love, and to work for your justice.

In this time of worship, guide and strengthen us, that we may go forth to bless your world fully and abundantly.

In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.

Offering

Song

Message for Sunday, June 7, 2026

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Title: Storytelling

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

--

Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

Reflection: Storytelling

If you haven't been around for a while there is something you should know about the first Sunday in June. It is my Sunday to talk about anything that I want. Over the past few years, I've talked about things I've been learning or experiencing. This year I want to do something a little different. Instead, this year I am talking about something that I have been thinking about. What I've been thinking about is storytelling.

2

My older brother used to be quite a storyteller. I learned at a young age to take whatever he said with a grain of salt. He wouldn't lie in his stories; he would embellish them often placing himself at the center of the action. I don't bring this up as a criticism. In fact, as his younger brother it was one of the reasons I looked up to him, it wasn't till much later that I learned to take it with a grain of salt. Before any of you ask me, no he isn't like that now.

I've always fancied myself a bit of a story teller. Not so much of the exaggeration or embellishing part but in that I love to read and tell a good story. I have read a significant amount through this year, but it still is shaping up to be my lowest reading years since I started keeping track of my reading in 2001. The first story that I read that that I would say ignited in me a love of reading (and of stories) in general was the Wizard of Oz. Did you know that there are 14 books in the original Frank Baum series? I've read all of them and I prefer the books to any of the movies that have come out.

When I was in college and seminary many of the Bible classes that I had often referred to the Bible as a story. That it is the story of the people of faith, that it's the story that we are a part of and that we continue. We even sing songs about this "I love to tell the story of unseen things above." Our spiritual lives are steeped in story and in telling stories. Every year with the lectionary readings we

Message for Sunday, June 7, 2026

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Title: Storytelling

spend time predominantly in one Gospel. Why? Because the individual gospels have a story to tell us in their own unique way.

Over the past three years I have written about stories while working on my Masters in Disability Theology, and I've read about story telling lessons as a way of teaching science in my Master of Education Course Work. In my experience the things that take up most of our lives revolve around stories. Music, Movies, Theater, heck even furniture tells a story.

3 What stories we tell, and how we tell those stories matter. The stories we tell about ourselves, others, and our faith influence the way we interact with others and with the Gospel. When we talk about the Gospels, if we try and condense four distinct stories into one story we change the nature of that story completely. We change the point of the story. We rewrite stories all the time, and usually when we do that we have a reason. I've watched it when people have lost someone they often rewrite the story to where the person has little resemblance to the person they lost. Is that wrong? Not necessarily, sometimes re-writing a story can help us process it. If we insist though on not acknowledging *all* parts of a story then it can cause us more harm than good.

The stories we tell also help to define who we are. In the past I have shared how we came to move to Arizona. I still look on that time as something that God created and led us through. Could it be different? Yes. I could tell the story as just our initiative, or as a desire to escape. However, how I have decided to talk about it is to share the story of how God has worked through us and brought us to where we feel we are supposed to be.

What is the point of this message today? It's simple. What story are you telling? How are you shaping your understanding of the world and of yourself? Today we are going to share in communion. Storytelling written in bread and wine. Storytelling that we are actively a part of. It is through that shared story that we are a part of the community. So, when you tell your stories who are you making yourself? And who are you making God to be? Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving Communion Liturgy UMH pp. 13-16

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

Message for Sunday, June 7, 2026

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Title: Storytelling

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

--

**P: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

4

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

--

L: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

--

L: On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

--

L: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Message for Sunday, June 7, 2026

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Title: Storytelling

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

--

L: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

--

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

--

L: By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

5

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

--

P: Amen.

Communion/Songs

Benediction