Message for Sunday, November 22, 2026
Title: Restore
Scripture: John 21: 1-19

Welcome
Announcements:
Giving Options-Special offing Frontera de Cristo. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service today at 2PM.
Decorate the church tomorrow: Able body folks at 8:30 for hauling up materials; Decorating crew starts at 9:30AM. Sign up in the foyer;
Last call for RSVP for Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner;
Sunday Brunch Group, open to anyone after church each Sunday. See Carol Q or Elaine H for details about today's destination.
Book Club meeting Tuesday, December 1 at 10:30AM in Pastor's Office;
Toy for Tots, Toys for Sonoyta;
Methodist Ladies Lunch Group at Dennys on December 7th at Noon.

Fellowship of Love
Song

Call to Worship
L: We believe in one restoring God.
P: Who restores our bodies through the gift of Sabbath.

L: We believe in a restoring God.
P: Who restores our souls through the gift of grace and second chances.

L: We believe in a restoring God.
P: who restores this hurting world through the gift of God's son Jesus Christ.

L: And we believe in a restoring God who invites us to join in this restoration work.
P: As people of faith, we seek to restore creation to God by feeding the hungry, loving our neighbors, forgiving seventy times, welcoming the children, seeing all, loving all, and living like we belong to all.

L: And so we will work until God's promised day.
P: This we believe. Amen.

Unison Prayer
A: Holy God,
There was Eden,

and then there was east of Eden;
Which is all to say-this world is not what you intended it to be.

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You planted a garden and dreamed of Sabbath, and it was good. It was so very good.

However, when we look around today, we know that we have lost our way. So today we bring our hearts, minds, and money back to you in hopes that you will sow good.

This is the work of restoration, for we want to be a restoration people. Use our gifts to you for a hurting world. Restore us to you, oh God.
Amen.

Scripture: John 21:1-19 NRSVue
21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way.

2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.
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3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
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4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.
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5 Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.”
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6 He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.
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7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea.
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8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.
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9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.

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10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.”
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11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn.
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12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord.
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13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish.
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14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.
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15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”
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16 A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”
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17 He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.
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18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.”
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19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Sermon: Restore

For the past three weeks we have been looking at stewardship through a different lens. We started our series by looking at remembering, second week was release, third was reimagine, and this week we are ending with restore. We started with a story about Jesus, the disciples around a table, sharing the communion meal.

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This week we end our journey at another meal, one after the resurrection on the shore of the sea.

This story from John happens after Jesus' resurrection, and is Jesus' second time appearing to the disciples. You would think at this point the disciples "got it," Jesus is back. If you look at Peter's reaction though that doesn't seem to be the case as he swims to the shore. I would like to start today with a simple question. If Jesus has been resurrected and the disciples know it, why are the disciples back at fishing?

This is one of those questions that may surprise you. What I mean by this is it's one that has never crossed your mind because we go from Jesus being raised and we kind of muddle through the rest. I think the reason we muddle through the rest is because we know how the story goes; we think we know what is going to happen next because we've heard it every Easter so we just feel that we can move on and not pause and investigate if further. So this question invites us to do that, why are they back to fishing?

Inertia. Inertia might be the first reason that we think of. Newtons first law of motion is "an object at rest stays at rest, an object in motion stays in motion." The first part of that is inertia. The disciples haven't been pushed out of Jerusalem-so maybe that's the reason. Maybe the next big thing needs to happen to force them to go, force them to go beyond inertia. This idea makes some sense, Lord knows for many of us we won't do anything till we are poked or prodded.

I don't really think that is what is going on here though. I think when our lives change drastically we will often go back to what we know. We go back to the old ways, the old tried and true. Sometimes we go there and get stuck, other times we go back, and we collect ourselves to prepare to move forward. That is the crux of what is happening in this passage. The disciples are fishing because that's what they know. They are fishing because it is easier to go back to what you know and to think so you can then move into the future.

The choice here that we are being given is do we live in the old ways of doing things or do we strive to live into new stories that God wants to do through us. Again we know the end of the story, we know that there are amazing new stories ahead for the disciples, but they don't know that. We are called to prayerfully consider how are we going to move forward.

As Methodists, when we are members, we are called on to support the church with our time, our talents, and our treasure. We are called to consider all that we are and then to consider how God may want to use us to tell new stories. We are not all called to give the same way, but we are called to give of who we are. When it comes to

supporting our church, I'm not going to lie, we need your financial support. It takes funds to keep the lights on, and keep me employed. We also need funds to support ministries, our food pantry and supplying the opportunities for the kids from the community who come to us. You can give of your talents, maybe you are really good at making cheese…well I'm not sure how we can use that but I'm sure we can find a way! Maybe you don't have much to offer financially, but you can offer yourself. Your presence at our ministries, at events, and at worship is important. Not just for your own spiritual development but for the development of who we are as a church.

Looking at the story of the disciples here I think we can actually use their example. Take a breath. But as you take that breath, look for how God can use you to support the ministries of the church and to live into the new stories with God. Amen.

Lords Prayer/Pastoral Prayer
Song
Benediction
Song