

“Keep It Up!”
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
10/19/2025
(*Show Title Slide*)

Today in the United Methodist Church
We have our annual celebration of Laity Sunday

In some churches around the county,
The pastor gets the day off from worship
In some cases,
They may get the chance to worship in a pew
with the rest of their family
Or they may visit a neighboring church
To get a sense of what other churches do and preach

For Laity Sunday,
There are even worship and sermon helps offered each year
(*Show Resources Slide*)

If only you were so lucky here in Pine Island

Instead of those things,
We get to have **two** sermons here today!
(*Show Paul in Prison Slide*)

The first sermon is from Paul as he writes to Timothy

I want us to listen to these words carefully.

As we hear them,
Realize that here may be about **50?** or more different
interpretations or understandings
of what Paul is talking about here relating to our current context

Because as we say,
*Whenever you get three United Methodists together,
You will have a least four different opinions*
(Yeah, go ahead and do the math)

So, listen carefully to Paul’s words for us, for you and me, today

² Preach the word. Be ready to do it whether it is convenient or inconvenient. Correct, confront, and encourage with patience and instruction. ³ There will come a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. They will collect teachers who say what they want to hear because they are self-centered. ⁴ They will turn their back on the truth and turn to myths.

– 2 Timothy 4:2-4

What are the things and opinions
that are being fed to you and me each day?

And how **do they stand up** in light of scripture,
And the teaching and example of Jesus
and our Wesleyan Quadrilateral
scripture
tradition
experience
reason

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– 2 Timothy 4:2-4

That’s the first sermon for today.

(*Show Title Slide*)

For the **second** sermon,
I’m making **you** all do all the work

Don’t get anxious and think that this is something like
A final exam
Or a pop quiz

This is more of a **celebration** of what we do
and what we have done together

To set this up,
This is what the purpose of Laity Sunday is...

Laity Sunday celebrates the people of God and the Spirit working through them (all of them). As God's people grow in grace, they gather with others and connect with the saving love of Jesus Christ. So, on Laity Sunday, we continue to lift up God's call to follow the way of Jesus and lead others to him – especially, as we consider what it means to be Spirit-strong, connectional disciples, courageous leaders in our local community with our worldwide connection

To help us think about this,

Let's use the classic framework of successful youth ministry

In youth ministry, we cover four things...

(Show four items Slide)

- We have to have fun together
- We provide spiritual growth
- We provide service to our church congregation
- We provide service to our community

So, as a church filled with lay people,

What can we celebrate in each of these areas

Moving through the four points?

(Show each item Slides)

(When asked, show the Pine Island Resource Guide information)

(Show PI Resource Guide Slide)

A final thought...

In the United Methodist Church we have this balancing act

(Show Title Slide)

As we look at the four Gospels

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

On one hand, we hear about the **things we are to do**

In order to **follow** Jesus as his disciples

Living in light of his example

On the other hand, we hear about singular importance of

Believing in Jesus for our salvation

It's that ageless "Faith versus Works" question

Let's hold on to both sides as we celebrate our ministry together

We are called by Jesus to serve the world and the people he loves

We are given strength through the inspiration of God's Holy Word

(Show Paul Slide)

As Paul wrote to Timothy so many years ago,

¹⁴ But you must continue with the things you have learned and found convincing. You know who taught you. ¹⁵ Since childhood you have known the holy scriptures that help you to be wise in a way that leads to salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, ¹⁷ so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.

– 2 Timothy 3:14-17

(Response Hymn

"Thy Word Is a Lamp"

601)

"Keep It Up!"

LAITY SUNDAY 2025

Together by Grace

Be STRONG in the Spirit

•We have to have fun together

•We provide spiritual growth

•We provide service to our church

•We provide service to our community

Pine Island United Methodist Church

Sharing the love of Jesus, offering love to those seeking for mercy, and offering a place where everyone can feel like they belong.

•We have to have fun together

•We provide spiritual growth

•We provide service to our church

•We provide service to our community