

# The Fairview Disciple



The Mission of the Fairview United Methodist Church is to enhance the spiritual growth of its members and the community by providing sound and meaningful experiences through worship, education, outreach, personal involvement in the ministry of the church, and the general nurturing of the congregation in keeping with the example and teaching of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Fairview United Methodist Church

I could not keep from breaking into a self-satisfied smile when I heard an interviewer ask a university professor with an impressive-sounding title why leaves turn colors in the fall. Smugly, I thought to myself: It hardly takes a top-ranking specialist in tree biology to answer that; most sixth-graders can explain it. The answer is that the leaves contain no more chlorophyll, the chemical that manufactures sugar for the tree to live on. Once the chlorophyll (which is green) is gone, the colors of the remaining chemical components of the leaves can be seen.

## THE PASTOR'S POUND

*"An ounce of  
common sense is  
worth a pound  
of clergy."*

— John Adams

The professor's reply took me by surprise. "I have no idea," he said.

Then I remembered that the interviewer had not asked *how* the leaves change color, but *why*. The professor could not explain what particular *purpose* autumn colors serve. Flowers have beautiful colors in order to attract insects for

pollination. Male birds have showy plumage to draw attention away from their nesting mates. But why are trees yellow and orange and red? For that matter, why are they *green*? To this, science has no answer.

The psalmist asked essentially the same wonder-filled question: "What are mere mortals that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:4, Today's New International Version). When blessed by God, David asked in hushed reverence, "Who am I, O Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me thus far?" (2 Samuel 7:18).

"Why did this happen?" This heartfelt cry comes to the lips in times of distress and hardship. But there are countless other times we can ask the same question—times when we are the recipients of God's freely given grace. "Why were we blessed with our child?" "Why do I have enough and to spare to meet my needs?" "Why was my operation successful?"

The splendor of nature, the ecstasy of love of one person for another, the wonder of God's grace—these are things more to be appreciated than analyzed.