

Apple Seeds: A Meditation

One day a woman noticed a new stall in the local market. God was in the stall.

"What do you sell here?" she asked.

God replied, "All your heart desires."

The woman was astounded. "Wow! I'll have peace, joy and a nice house.

Not just for me but for everyone and—"

God interrupted, "I think you've misunderstood. I don't sell fruit here, only seeds."

God gives us seeds. What we do with them is up to us.

The Gift of Apples

John Chapman, known as Johnny Appleseed, left a legacy. He planted apple orchards throughout the Midwest in the early 19th century. The seeds became trees, which bore fruit with seeds, which became trees that bore fruit with seed. He is still thanked by apple lovers today.

About 7,500 apple varieties grow worldwide, and 2,500 alone are grown in the United States. The apples are different in shape, size, color, flavor and growing season.

Some apples are crisp, some soft. Some are sweet others tart. Some are good for pies, and others for sauce, bread cakes, apple butter, jams and jellies. Some of us enjoy apple juice or cider. Some of us like eating just plain old apples.

Apples contain no fat, cholesterol or sodium. A medium apple provides about 95 calories of energy and about 17 percent of our daily recommended fiber. They contain more than 80 percent water and are rich in vitamins. What a wonderful gift God gave us.

Seeds

Seeds, to look at them, are generally small, insignificant. It's difficult to tell by looking at a seed what it will produce. Seeds need to be planted, nurtured, protected and fertilized. Seeds hold within them the pattern for new life and the promise of something beautiful, useful, healthy. It may take many years for seeds to yield fruit. When the seeds of an apple are planted, it takes 8-10 years for the tree to bear fruit, but it is capable of producing fruit for as long as 100 years.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women members have a history of being in the business of planting, nurturing and fertilizing seeds. We have not always been sure of the results of our labor, but we are willing to work, having hope that our seeds will sprout and grow. We plant with generosity and gratitude because of the generous God who provided the seeds, the opportunity and space to sow.

Some of the fruit we bore may have been sweet and soft, or crisp and tart. Whatever the planted seed turned out to be, it was a product of our willingness to plant the gifts endowed to us from the our extravagant God.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it,

He throws caution to the winds,
giving to the needy in reckless abandon.
Your right-living, right-giving ways
never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals, is more than extravagant with you. [God] gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God. (*The Message*)

Closing Prayer

Creator God, Sovereign of the Universe,
Bless our seeds—our gifts with your gift of life.
You made the soil, the seeds, the sun, and the rain.
And you made us as companions to you and your creation.
May our gifts, the seeds you gave to us, grow,
and may they blossom, bear fruit,
leave a legacy
as witnesses to your wonder and creativity.
We praise and bless your name,
God of hope and miracles.
Amen.