

ARTICLE FOR GAZETTE  
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Orting United Methodist Church

**Public school begins in Orting on September 4. It is an exciting time when families come home from their summer activities and prepare for another year of school. We of the United Methodist Church care about public schools. We believe they are the backbone of a democratic society. For that reason we are setting aside Sunday, September 9, as a special day of blessing of children, teachers and administrators of our public schools.**

**We know that prayer doesn't have to be a part of the program of the public schools if prayer is carried in the heart of those who go there. We have a great and wonderful God! We have a savior, Jesus Christ, who walks with us and holds us by the hand through all of life's good times and hard times. He is the one we can lean on when we need a special friend and an understanding heart. Thom Shuman states it well in his poem, "Leaning." (copyright 2007, used by permission)**

Leaning . . .

i am only a little boy:  
my first day at school  
starts tomorrow;  
i'll be brave for my Mom,  
and not let her see me cry.  
but, can i lean on you?

i am only a young girl:  
i'll get back on the bus  
this week wondering  
if the boy who teased me last year  
will be in his old seat;

if that group of girls  
who giggled behind my back  
will still be knotted together.  
so, can i lean on you?

i am only a teacher,  
not a super hero:  
i have good days  
and rotten mornings;  
i have tears  
shimmering in my eyes  
behind the happy face  
i wear every day.  
can i lean on you?

i am only a hypocrite  
putting on my clay feet every day,  
striding forth into the world  
bent over by my skeptic spirit,  
hoping that today,  
i might be bowled over  
by faith.  
till then, can i lean on you?

**We want you to get off to a good start and to have the best possible year in school. Whether you are a kindergartner, graduate student, parent, teacher, administrator or crossing guard, if you are part of the educating of children, youth or adults, come to Orting United Methodist Church on September 9, at 11:00 am, and receive a "Back to School Blessing."**