

Wisdom Comes With Age  
Pastor John Hicks  
First United Methodist Church

I woke up this morning one year older. All my life I've been taught to respect my elders. Now I am one. I'm reminded of what one friend shared with me, "You know you are getting older when you try to straighten out the wrinkles in your socks only to find you aren't wearing any."

Growing older. Aging. We can laugh about it, make jokes about it, and groan about it, but we can't stop it. So, what do we do with birthdays? As much as we might like to *avoid* them, we can't. So why not celebrate them? Birthdays are good for us. The more we have, the longer we live.

According to the Scriptures, "advanced years should teach wisdom", so here is some of mine. Pocket the ones you find of value. Toss those you don't.

A positive mind set can make your day. It's better to set your mind so that when you wake up you can say, "Good morning, Lord", and not "Good Lord, it's morning."

Words can hurt people more than sticks and stones. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them. But when you forget, never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

There would be fewer problems with children if they had to chop wood to keep the television set going. Teenagers will do dumb things. Whoever came up with the phrase to "sleep like a baby" probably didn't have one.

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker. More often than not, it's the second mouse that gets the cheese.

The easy way is not always the best way, and often the harder it is to do something, the stronger it makes me. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

To say no to someone is not wrong. We could learn a lot from crayons--some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, and some have weird names, but they all have to live in the same box.

There is truth and value to what Robert Fulghum shared in *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten*. Think what a better world it would be if the whole world had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap. Or if all governments and people had a basic policy to always put things back where they found them and to clean up their own messes.

And it is still true, no matter how many birthdays we've had; when we go out into the world it's best to hold hands and stick together.

Life is not fair, but God is good. Together, we can all make it through together with this truth.