

# Community as Currency

*(A very boring PowerPoint Presentation)*

# Road map for this evening

- We are in uncertain times
- We are in new territory so we're making this up
- Two kinds of money - national currency and natural currency
- Two kinds of wealth - financial and relational/community
- What we do together matters more than what we do alone
- Community wealth matters... and will matter more and more
- We build wealth through imagination, participation, and being open to surprise.
- Let's invent some cool sh\*t together

# The wisdom of uncertainty

- We may know data - co2, political instabilities, authoritarian shift - and we may know what we value, but we don't know what's coming and what's right action
- Worse, we don't know what we don't know
- We don't know who has the puzzle piece we need, and we won't listen to half the people so we are doubly blind

# The wisdom of imagination in uncertain times

We make the path by imagining.  
We live in the imagination of the  
past.

We can imagine anything.  
Imagination is political.

# Money isn't the only currency

- National currency debt based. Money loaned into being by banks
- Natural currency is reciprocity based. Comes from the relationship between the sun and the earth, through plants to mammals.
- Contributing to the livingness of a system increases wealth for the system.

# National currency

Meet needs outside of kinship/reciprocity.

Consumer culture breaks bonds between people so it can fill the emptiness with products

Dictators break bonds between people, so they bond with the great leader.

It allows movement, novelty, discovery, change.  
It can lead to stasis, loneliness, alienation.

# Natural currency

Exchange among kin in trust networks.

Meets needs through reciprocity and mutuality.

Allows safety, sufficiency and belonging  
May limit change, novelty, adventure, adaptation.

# Shout out: examples of natural currency

What do you need that national currency can't buy, but natural currency can?

What do you buy with national currency that you don't need?  
What can you "buy" with natural currency to fill your needs for love, connection, service, creativity and more?



National Wealth

GNP—  
MONETIZED

“PRIVATE” SECTOR

“PUBLIC” SECTOR

“UNDERGROUND ECONOMY”

Natural Wealth

NON—  
MONETIZED

“LOVE ECONOMY”

MOTHER NATURE

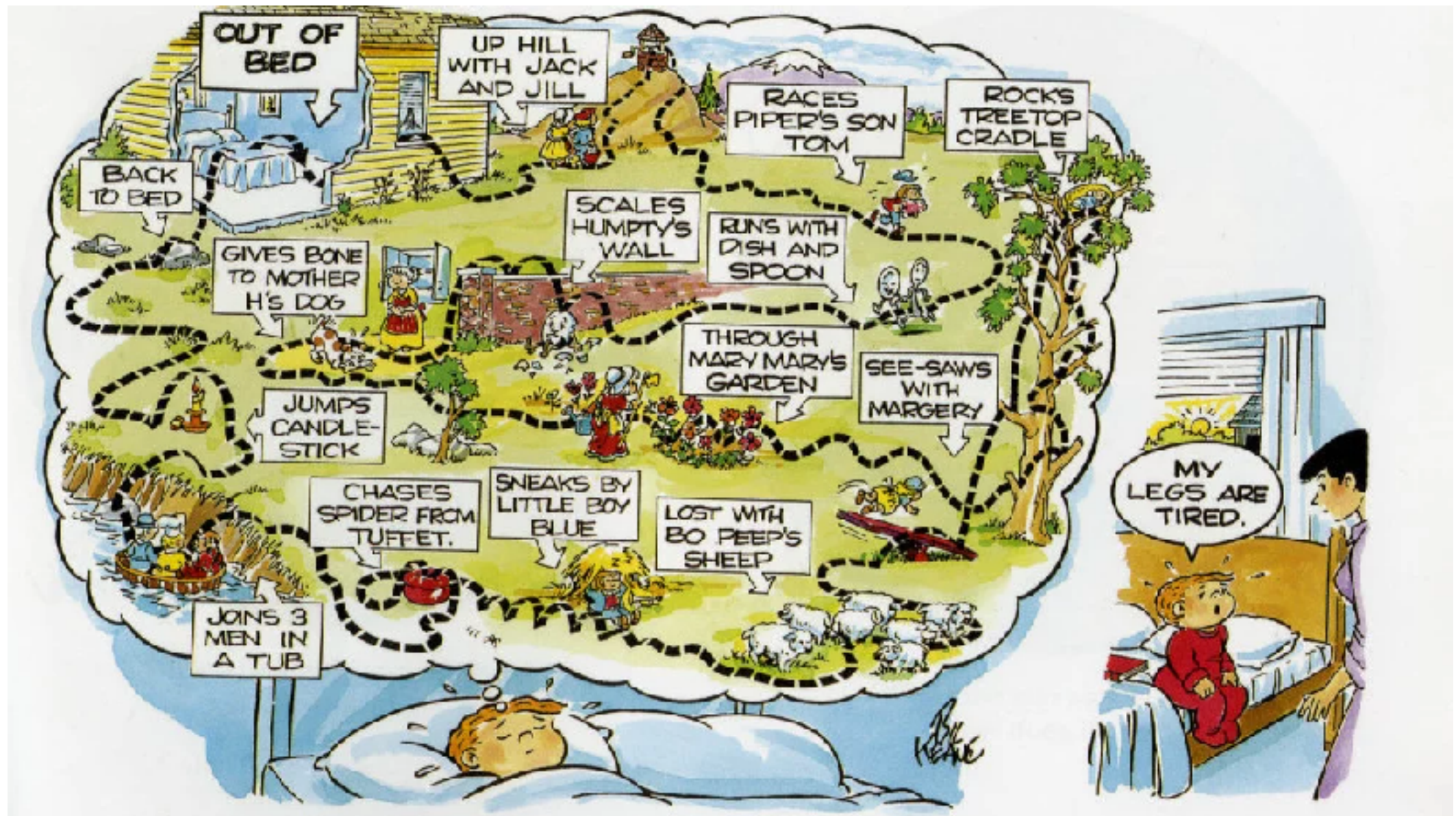


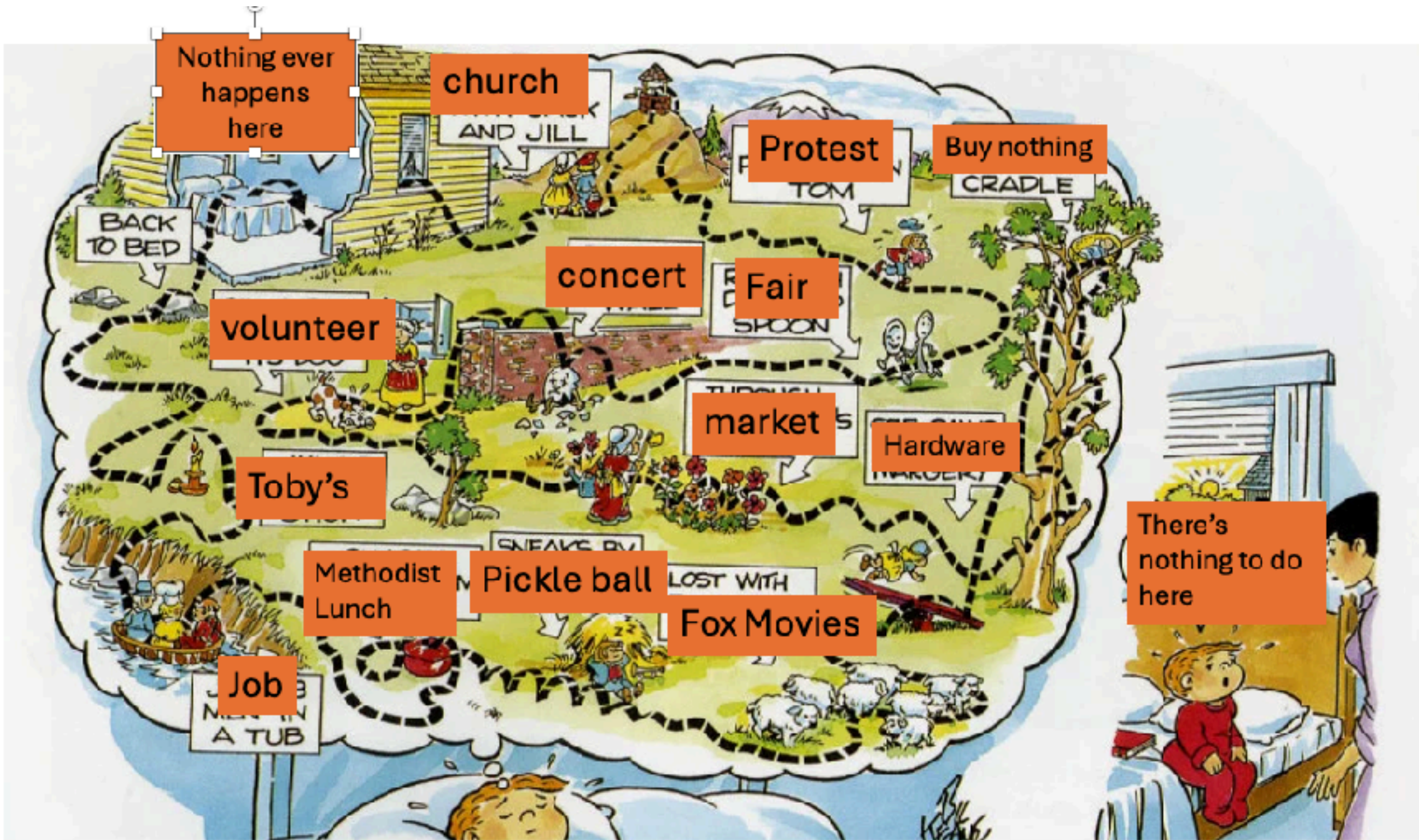
# LOVE ECONOMY



# How do we build wealth through participation?

- Church
- Groups
- Work
- Shop
- Entertainment
- We make this culture through participating.
- Sports
- Service





Nothing ever happens here

church

Protest

Buy nothing

concert

Fair

volunteer

market

Hardware

Toby's

Methodist Lunch

Pickle ball

Fox Movies

Job

There's nothing to do here

# Possibilities for building social wealth:

- Radical solutions are just outside the known. Look there.
- Underutilized resources can fill unmet needs without building anything new.
- Transportation (safe hitchhiking through ride buddy network)
- Energy (PUD? Community solar? Neighbor networks?)
- Housing (In-Home Suites, self-contained efficiency apartments in larger homes)
- Food (How much can we grow, process and sell with scale appropriate regulations?)
- Health (holistic health practices and products)
- Opportunities for youth to build national wealth (to get off the rock)
- Climate protection? (repurpose?) (kicking gas) (what else can we kick?)
- Building social wealth (potlucks, circles, conversation cafes, church lunches - 2 or more gathered in the name of community well being...)
- Arts (story catchers, tellers)

# This can be true of us in uncertain times

- We are wealthy and getting wealthier.
- We are connected and build connections through showing up.
- We are capable and learn from one another.
- We value one another as wealth creators (including those we don't know or agree with).
- We are not a cargo cult, or consumer cult - we use imagination, participation and curiosity to build wealth together.
- We cannot be broken by those who would sell us safety or security in exchange for our sovereign natural wealth fund built through participation, creativity, and imagination.