FROM THE PASTOR

February 20, 2019

The Way Forward

As many of you are aware The United Methodist Church is holding a called General Conference February 23-26 in St. Louis, MO. The Holston Conference is sending 12 delegates as our representatives. At issue is The United Methodist Church's stance on human sexuality as it pertains to marriage and ordination of those who identify as LBGTQ persons.

The General Conference has dealt with this issue since 1972 at every General Conference. (General Conference meets every 4 years.) It has been a deeply divisive issue across Global Methodism with no resolution in sight. This called General Conference is an attempt to deal with this one issue in hopes of our denomination moving forward.

I am personally praying that the Holy Spirit will show forth in power and revival – that is what we have been praying in staff meetings. I acknowledge that this is a tough, tough issue. I also believe it is a biblical issue that God has spoken plainly about in the scripture. It is tough when it is people's lives, sons, daughters, grandchildren, brothers and sisters.

I believe only God can give us A Way Forward. Pray with me this week and weekend for God to show up and the delegates follow HIS leading.

Rev. Tim Bracken

Our Staff

- Pastor ..... Rev. Tim Bracken
- Administrative Assistant ..... Molly Near
- Financial Secretary ..... Mae Wilkins
- Director of Children's Ministry ..... Jill Ingram
- Director of Youth Ministry ..... TBA
- Director of Senior Adults ..... Karen Wood
- Director of Worship ..... Roberta Bishop
- Pianist ..... Tausha Plate
- Organist ..... Terry Barger
- Maintenance Director ..... Chris Offery
- Maintenance ..... Jeff Smith
- Director of CDC ..... Cathy Smith
- Director of PDO ..... Rachel David
- Assist. Director of CDC/PDO ..... Karon Steve

wednesday night
DINNER

2~27~19

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Baked Beans

Adults $5.00
Kids $2.00
(12 yrs & under)

Please make reservations by Monday.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MTG

Administrative Council & Church Visioning
Sunday, February 24th at 5:00 PM
Please come prepared to discuss the ideas, goals, and strategies for your committee and its ministries.

THANK YOUS!

I want to thank everyone who sent prayers, cards, and gifts to me and gave me a ride when asked. I can't thank you enough. I love you!

Kathy Haist

Dear First UMC,

I wanted to say thank you for the Prayer Shawl and all the prayers you have sent my way. I am currently going through chemotherapy and my body seems to be responding positively already after the 1st month. I have an overall hopefulness about my journey with leukemia and can only credit that to God and those praying for me. I do have a ways to go yet!

I had to chuckle at the "knitted" prayer shawl. I started knitting (loom knitting) hats as Christmas presents this year. My mind immediately went to the amount of yarn and time that probably went into that gift. All I can say is that I truly cherish the gift. Thank you! God is good!

In Christ,
Wendy Pistrang

NOW ACCEPTING BIDS

The Board of Trustees is now accepting bids for the following items:

- *Toro Z Master 52" deck—19HP Commercial Zero turn mower*
- *Boy Scout 5' x 8' Box Trailer*

Please submit bids to the Trustees through the church office.

THE CARING PLACE COLLECTION

During February we are collecting non-perishable food items for The Caring Place.

The needed items include:
"Cold" Cereal (no jumbo sizes)
Boxed Mashed Potatoes
Chicken Helper & Tuna Helper
Canned Chicken & Canned Tuna

The collection barrel is in the Narthex.

LET'S VISIT!

Do you know of someone who would like to receive cards, a visit, and/or a phone call? Please give information to Karen Wood.

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Sacred Road in Washington State
June 1-8, 2019
Deadline to sign up is March 15th!
Contact Kellie Bracken for details.

WEDDING SHOWER

Join us in honoring
Austin Byerly & Ashlyn Williams
on Sunday, March 10th
1:00-3:00 PM in the Commons
Hosted by: the Elan Circle
Registered: Target and Bed, Bath, & Beyond

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

There are 4 graduating from the Mary Diana Samuel Home in India...let's shower them with lots of letters of love and encouragement as they move on in their studies/careers. Would you join us? **Turn your letters in by Sunday morning, February 24th.**

Pryanka Christie - MD Graduate
Paul Daniel - Medical Lab Technician
Yogesvari - Starting Nursing School
Nalini - Joining the Police Academy

FIRST YOUTH ADVENTURES

- March 5th—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Sign up to help.
- March 12-14th—Spring Break Mission Trip to Decatur, AL. (UMCOR Warehouse)

PRAYER FOR OUR YOUTH

We are in search of a few servants who love to pray! The youth ministry is presently undergoing some reorganization and we need folks who would be willing to pray through and pray for this process. The time of commitment is minimal....a few minutes to 30 minutes a week. You would be communicated with on a regular basis on what to pray for. If you are interested or need some more information, please contact Kim Muglach at 423-310-6064 or at muglach@bellsouth.net

"I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and do all in my power to strengthen its ministry by my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness."

OUR PRAYERS

NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO ADD OR REMOVE NAMES FROM THE PRAYER LIST.

- Peggy McLain
- Gary Farner
- LONG TERM PRAYER
- Connie Bancroft
- Sarah Bandy
- Clifford and Patsy Barger
- Judy Barger
- Rachel Boring
- Kathy Buckingham
- Charlotte Caraway
- Debbie Trentham Case
- Buddy Chance
- Bill Cooke
- Emma Cummings
- Kara Davidson
- Lorrie Duke
- Sharon Everson
- Melinda Flowers
- Sean Hale
- Bonnie Headrick
- Gary Holden
- Brenda Holder
- Russell & Patty Johnson
- Janna Jordan
- Shannon Knowles
- Sue Ledford
- Teresa Lee
- Janet Lynch
- Gloria Martin
- George McCoin
- Betty McLain
- Chris Offrey
- Carolyn Owens
- Kym Phillips
- Tilley Phillips
- Tom Phillips
- Wendy Pistrang
- Sharon Racek
- Don Ritzhaupt
- Nalini Samuel
- Judy Stack
- Nicholas Stark
- Kylene Stump
- Rachel Suderland
- Lila Switzer
- Stuart Switzer
- Janice Tate
- Addison Thompson
- Terri Twyford
- Kim Van Dusen
- Jim and Sarah Wagner
- Jennifer Wilhite

OUR PRESENCE

	Sunday School	Worship
02/10/2018	44	201
02/17/2018	44	171

OUR GIFTS

Budget Receipts 02/10/2018	4,844.00
Receipts to Date:	52,537.02
Expenditures to Date:	71,988.21
Receipts/Expenditures + or [-}	n/a
Budget to Date:	n/a
Budget Receipts 02/17/2019	7,140.88
Receipts to Date:	59,677.90
Expenditures to Date:	93,734.32
Receipts/Expenditures + or [-]	n/a
Budget to Date:	n/a

OUR SERVICE - FEBRUARY 24

Prayer Team: Kay Simpkins
Monthly Prayer Focus: Mary Diana Samuel Home
Ushers: Kirk Gobble, Head; Frank Calfee, Larry Janisewski, John Driver
Altar Flowers will be in honor of Lonnie Jones' 50th birthday and in memory of Jimmie Poe, given by Lisa Poe-Jones.

First Kidz Church begins at 10:30 AM every Sunday in the Christian Life Center. *(It does not meet the first Sunday of the month.)*
Sonshine Kidz is for preschoolers ages 3,4, & 5
Nursery is available for children 3 yrs old and younger. *Located in the CLC.*

Open hearts, open minds, open doors...the people of the United Methodist Church.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 24
7:30 AM *Sanctuary open for Prayer*
8:30 AM Early Worship Service
9:20 AM Confirmation Class
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship Service
5:00 PM Administrative Council Meeting
5:00 PM First Youth

Monday, February 25
7:00 AM *Prayer for Revival*
6:30 PM Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet

Tuesday, February 26
9:00 AM *Prayer for Revival*
8:00 PM *Prayer for Revival*

Wednesday, February 27
10:00 AM Women's Bible Study
12:00 PM *Prayer for Revival*
2:00 PM *Prayer for Revival*
5:30 PM Dinner
6:00 PM Wild 1's Kids Choirs
6:15 PM Bible Study
6:15 PM First Youth
6:15 PM Chancel Choir
7:30 PM String Band

Thursday, February 28
10:00 AM *Prayer for Revival*
12:00 PM *Prayer for Revival*

Friday, March 1
7:00 AM *Prayer for Revival*

Saturday, March 2
8:00 AM UMM Breakfast

CDC - 7:00 AM–6:00 PM
PDO - 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 5—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**
- **March 6—Ash Wednesday Service**
- **March 7—Gadabout Potluck Lunch**
- **March 9—Bread of Life**
- **March 10—Byerly Wedding Shower Cub Scout Sunday**
- **March 11—Seekers Circle**
- **March 12—May Dooley Circle, Friendship Circle**
- **March 14—UMW Executive Meeting**
- **March 11-14—Youth Mission Trip**
- **March 16-24—India Mission Trip**
- **March 17—Youth Mystery Trip**
- **March 19—Rose Circle, Youth Council Meeting**
- **March 21—Gadabout Outing**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3425 Ocoee Street North
Cleveland, TN 37312
423-476-4504
www.clevelandumc.com

Child Development Center
Phone: 423-478-1426

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Gifts to the Church

To the Choir Fund
In honor of Nancy Boyd:
Her Prayer Partner