Dear Friends,

In the month of February there will be a special called session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in St. Louis, Missouri. The date of the conference will be February 23-26. General Conference, held every four years, is the only group that has the authority to make binding decisions for our church. The General Conference includes United Methodists from around the world, not just in the United States. At the 2016 General Conference delegates asked the Council of Bishops to form a commission to explore how the church might live “gracefully” with one another considering the significant differences on the issue of how to include LGBTQ persons in the life of the church. The commission was named, “A Way Forward.” They completed their task a few months ago and have submitted three proposals that will be dealt with at the called session. There can be others submitted, on the same subject from the floor, at the Conference for consideration as well.

The issues surrounding human sexuality have been a topic of discussion in the United Methodist Church for the last 40 years or so. Often, there have been heated discussions on the floor of the General Conference because persons have deep convictions on the issue. The three proposals are:

- **The One Church Plan** removes restrictive language from the Book of Discipline (the “rule book” of our church) that prohibits same-gender weddings on UMC properties and ordination of “self-avowed” practicing homosexuals. There would be added language to protect churches and pastors who choose not to allow same-gender marriages.

- **The Connectional Conference Plan** would replace the current jurisdictional conferences with three connectional conferences based on affinity. All three would use a general Book of Discipline with the ability to adapt other portions to their context of ministry.

- **The Traditional Plan** broadens the definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual;” it puts penalties in place for disobedience of the Discipline; and requires bishops to certify adherence to the Discipline.

I have in the office the names and email addresses of those persons who will be representing our Illinois Great Rivers Conference at the called session. If you would like to contact any of these with your opinions on the issues involved feel free to come by the office for a copy.

What I would like for each of us to do is to **take time each day at 10:00 a.m. and pray for the General Conference** as they deal with these issues. This is an important time in the life of the United Methodist Church and we need to ask for God’s wisdom, guidance, and love to be the key elements of this Conference. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to give me a call or stop by the office.

See You Sunday,

Alan

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**Sermon:** “This Is Discipleship”  
Yiwen Bi

**Scripture:** Luke 5:1-11

**Anthem:**
- 8:15 *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*  
  Jeremy Holmes, Tenor
- 10:45 *Tune My Heart to Sing Thy Grace*  
  Sanctuary Choir, Joe Walczyk, trumpet; Rachel Alessio, director

**Hymns:**
- 577 God of Grace and God of Glory
- 438 Forth in Thy Name, O Lord
- 530 Are Ye Able
- 413 A Charge to Keep I Have

**Altar flowers:** Altar flowers are given this week by Kathy Hollister in memory of Janese & Christopher Rugg (sister and nephew).

**Acolytes:**
- 10:45 Anne Marie Simonds, Madison Voss

**Indoor Greeters:**
- Gail & Linda White

**Liturgists:**
- 8:15: Joyce Vancil
- 10:45: Darren Bailey

**Sound System Operators:**
- 8:15 Scott Wright
- 10:45 Steve Mitchell

**February Ushers:**
- 8:15 Duane & Sue Stucky; Ron Browning, Joe Lenzini, Lori Palmer, Krishna Balasubramanian, Will Stephens

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Our Mission Statement: “Called together by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim God’s presence and love in the world through prayer, worship, education and service. We invite children, youth, and adults to become disciples of Jesus Christ, live fully in the Holy Spirit, and embrace God’s love.”
**In Church This Week**

**February**

**7 Thursday**
- 1:00 Priscilla Circle
- 4:00 Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
- 5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm 404
- 6:00 Education Committee
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**Friday**
- 9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

**Saturday**

**10 Sunday**
- Blood Pressure Sunday
- 8:15 Worship Service
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 10:45 Worship Service
- 12:00 Young Adult Lunch, Harkbaugh’s after services

**11 Monday**

**12 Tuesday**
- 8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 9:00 Daniel Plan Essentials, Room 403
- 10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404

**13 Wednesday**
- 9:00-3 Healing Touch (by apt. only), Rm 403
- 10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Neil Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
- 4:45 Handbells Rehearsal, Rm 418
- 6:00 Grateful Hearts, Room 308
- 6:00 Youth Group, Chapel

**14 Thursday**
- Valentine’s Day
- 4:00 Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
- 5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm 404
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**15 Friday**
- 9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

**16 Saturday**

**17 Sunday**
- 8:15 Worship Service
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 10:45 Worship Service

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**Reminder:**

If you have not already done so, this is a reminder to please come in to the church office and add your 2019 activities and events to the calendar.

**Thank you . . .**

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**CONCERNS**

If you would like yourself or a family member removed from or placed on the Concerns List, please notify the office (457-2416). The information on this sheet is printed on Thursday mornings.

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**Call for Volunteers:**

We need volunteers to be Usher Captains for May/November 2019. Regular Ushers needed at 8:15 a.m. for August and June/December. Please call the Church Office to volunteer.

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**Parents and children are invited to join us**

**Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Diane Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library

Join Ms. Jane for stories, music, games, and crafts as we learn about the Bible and how Jesus taught us to live and love.

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**Disciples for Sunday, February 10, 2019**

Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Kathy Hollister; 10:45 Linda & Rob Lucas

February Nametags: Linda Meredith

Outside Greeters: Kathy Hollister

Van Drivers: Don Bryant, Jr.

Welcome Center: 8:15 Jon Gobert; 10:45 Mary Lou Goodman

Children’s Church: Sam Indorante & Carolyn Gibson

Youth Helpers: Katie and Guy Indorante

Children’s Church Registration: JoVonna Noble

Parish Nurses: 9:15 Betty Graig; 11:45 Lianne Watson
Event: Opening to God 2019: A Retreat
Purpose: Providing immersion experiences to explore spiritual disciplines that people don't often practice, such as Dayenu, praying in color, Taize prayer, Ignatian meditation and so on
Date: 2/15 (Friday, beginning from 4pm) and 2/16 (Saturday, ending at 5:30pm)
Place: Little Grassy Camp
Cost: $75, or $50 for commuters (includes Saturday breakfast and lunch); if plus Friday sack supper, $84, or $59 for commuters
Registration: www.igrcc.org/openingtoGod, by 2/1
Note: If youths, young adults or young families are interested and need financial support, please contact Yiwen

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Morning Circle will not meet in January or February.
Feb. 7—Priscilla Circle, 1 p.m.
March 7—Priscilla Circle, 1 p.m.
March 19—Morning Circle, 10 a.m.
April 4—Priscilla Circle, 1 p.m.
April 16—Morning Circle, 10 a.m.
April 27—UMW Cache River District Meeting
   Location: Grace United Methodist Church

Boy Scout Sunday marks the founding of the Scouts in the United States. February 8, 1910 was the founding of the Boy Scouts of America by W.D. Boyce. The first Scout Sunday was in 1914. The Scout Law says that a “Scout is Reverent” and Scouts of all ages promise to do their “Duty to God.” These values strengthen youth character in their family, community, and faith. FUMC recognizes the value of scouting today, and throughout the year.
IGRC scholarship application process opened December 1, 2018

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is offering a scholarship opportunity for undergraduate students during 2019-2020 school year.

Please apply online at www.wesleyfoundationsofillinois.org/scholarships/.

Applicants must be members of a United Methodist Church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for a minimum of one year. Scholarships awarded will be sent to the community college, college or university that the student will be attending during the 2019-2020 school year to help pay for their undergraduate tuition. The scholarships awarded will be a minimum of $500. Applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2019.

If you have any questions, contact Christy Blickensderfer at cbblickensderfer@igrctg.org or Amy Shreve at ashreve@igrctg.org.

Please note: There is no way to save this application in process. Once you have submitted your application, you will not be able to review or edit it. It is recommended that you review the entire application process before beginning.

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children’s Opportunities, Sundays
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (K-5th grade) uses the Deep Blue from Cokesbury. Main Topic: “Family Wisdom” — February 10 Sunday School—“Family Traditions”

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Children’s Church (K-5th grade). All children are invited to Children’s Church following the Children’s Time at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

Youth Opportunities, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m. Junior/Senior High Class meets in Room 414 and uses a variety of materials connecting the lessons of the Bible with issues relevant to today’s youth.

Adult Opportunities, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Renew - Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection and prayer. Currently, they are studying Unshakable Hope, Building Our Lives on the Promises of God by Max Lucado. They meet in Room 402. Women of all ages are welcome.

The Electives Class - Scripture studies following the lectionary led by Rev. John Sims. They meet in the Heritage Room. All are welcome!

Small Group Opportunities

The Daniel Plan Essentials meets in Room 403 at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. Join us on Feb. 5 and Feb. 12 for a viewing and discussion of Bishop Frank Beard’s Briefing on the General Conference 2019 to be held in St. Louis, Feb. 23-26. Everyone welcome.

Grateful Hearts meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Room 308. They are studying Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado.

Youth Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Chapel.

Men’s Group. All men of the church are invited to coffee and refreshments on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. We discuss anything and everything from the perspective of our relationship with God.

Gentle Toning, Stretch, and Yoga Techniques meets on Thursdays at 5:45 p.m., Room 404, the Chapel.

Golden Yoga meets on Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and on Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Room 404, the Chapel.

Get Connected...to great opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship on your Christian journey.