

the **Chimes**

Monthly Newsletter of Wesley United Methodist Church/February 2019

Pastor's Reflections

I don't usually plan my columns months in advance, but I did for this one. This month, the United Methodist Church will meet for a special session of our General Conference to see if we can find "a way forward" over the deep divisions within the UMC over how LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, and Queer) should be active within our denomination and what leadership roles LGBTQ person should play within the UMC. Thousands, perhaps millions of words have been written on this over the past several months, and I am not going to try and summarize it all here. I can't predict what might happen at this General Conference and if it will have a major impact on Sterling Wesley United Methodist Church. I truly don't know what will happen, no one really does. It is my hope whatever happens will be guided by the Holy Spirit, but I also sadly know humans don't always follow what the Holy Spirit urges us to do.

However, I want to draw on something our Bishop, Sally Dyck said last summer, something that I have been pondering and seeking to live into since I heard it. The mission statement of the United Methodist Church is: "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World." That is a statement I am behind 100 percent! Becoming a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ, and building my life around his two key teachings to love God with all I am and love my neighbor as myself has changed my life. I believe that in Christ, God came into this world to offer us relationship and life worth living; in Christ, God even suffered because God loves us all that much. Being a disciple of Jesus Christ has given my life purpose and meaning, and I want to share that with others. I also believe Christ calls us to help change our world. To end the systems that lead to injustice, poverty, racism, sexism, bigotry, prejudice, abuse, neglect, and all the other brokenness in our world. All the miseries caused by human sin. All the sinful systems that inflict suffering, particularly suffering on the innocent.

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Church Events

Sundays: WYG, 6:00-8:00PM , every 1st and 3rd Sunday

Tuesdays: Exercise class, activity room, 5PM

Wednesdays: Disciples Bible study, 9-11:30AM

Buddy Bags packing, 11:30AM

Bells practice, 5PM

Choir, 6PM in the sanctuary

Thursdays:

Exercise class, activity room, 5PM

Saturdays: Men's Bible study, 8AM

February 3rd: WYG 6-8PM

February 6th: Christian education meeting, 6PM, library

February 7th: Greeting card ministry, 9:30AM

February 12: Ad council meeting, 7PM

February 13: Women's breakfast, 8:30AM

February 14th: Coffee with pastor, Airplay Sports 7:30-10:00AM

February 15: Ladies luncheon, 11:30AM at Smoked on Third

February 21st: Worship team meeting, 6:30PM at Wesley UMC

South Dakota Mission Trip

An inter-generational team of people (youth and adults of various ages) will be going on a mission trip to Tree of Life Ministries, in Mission, SD (on the Rosebud Reservation, Lakota Nation) from July 20-28. We want you to be part of that team!

Tree of Life has been around since the 1980s and provides home repair, education, community development, nutrition and health services, and economic opportunity in Jesus' Name to their community. Sadly for many reasons, Rosebud Reservation is one of the most economically depressed regions of the US. Also sadly many people who claimed to be acting in Jesus name have over the past 120 years not always acted with ethics, mercy, and love towards the Lakota people. Tree of Life seeks to witness for Jesus through acts of love, support, and justice seeking to improve the lives of those in the Rosebud community.

Our mission team will be engaging specifically in home and building repair, ministries that help provide food and fellowship to the elderly, and also helping with a thrift shop. (also if anyone with medical skills wants to there may be some special opportunities for you to use your skills to help with some public health initiatives.) Each evening we will have time to learn more about Lakota culture. We will visit the beautiful Black Hills and get to know the people of the community. Anyone going into 7th grade can come on the trip (a younger person might be able to if their parents plan to come as well.) As of the writing of this article we have 10 people who've expressed interest, and we can take up to 9 more people with us, so sign up today.

The cost of the trip per person, including transportation, food, the building supplies and lodging while there will be \$500.00. That may seem like a lot, but we are not expecting people to pay that all out of pocket and we plan to do extensive fundraising. If you are interested please put down a \$50.00 deposit (or as much of that as you can) by March 1.

I know not all people will be able to go on the trip for many reasons, schedules, health, etc. However, I ask each person in the congregation to consider if they could make even a small donation towards the trip. We can be a team going out from Wesley to help people in Jesus Name. We can all be part of that! So let team up Wesley and see what God can do through us this summer!

Wesley Youth Group

First off, No WYG on Feb 3, as it is Super Bowl Sunday, have fun watching the game, watching the commercials, or doing something else entirely 😊

Sunday February 10: WYG join us for dinner, conversation, and bring a game you think we might all enjoy. Come make friends and grow in faith!

Sunday February 17: WYG, conversation, food, and fun, join us!

Last summer I twice heard our bishop say, that no matter what happens at the General Conference, our mission the next day after the conference is over, even if something drastic happens, will be to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I appreciated so deeply the bishop saying this, and I am deeply inspired by that mission. No matter what the mission of the people called Methodist will be to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I thank God every day for the gift of being the pastor of Wesley UMC, Sterling. I believe that whether the mission statement of the UMC is our official Wesley mission statement or not, that we as a congregation are working to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In general, that is the direction I see us going and I thank God and celebrate that. Whatever happens within and or to our denomination, I ask you all to prayerfully consider how you can help make disciples of Jesus Christ (and it might be that you are right now making yourself into a disciple a follower of Jesus) and how you can help transform our world for the better in Jesus' Name. I believe this mission is something we are doing, that we can do better, and is worthwhile. I pray that Wesley can continue to live out this mission, even more faithfully and more perfectly with the Holy Spirit as our guide. May it be so in Jesus' Name, Amen.

*Blessings,
Pastor Jeremiah*

Church Game Night!

All Wesley Folks of all ages, if you like Uno, scrabble, video games, or board games with 30 page rule books, or any sort of game join us for Game Night on Friday March 15, from 6:30-10:30. Come for as little or as long as you want. Bring a game to play, or a snack to share. Get to know someone at church over a bit of friendly competition. Join us, and bring your friends!!!



February Worship Services

As we enter February, we will be continuing our sermon series called "Our Methodist DNA" as we talk about what in our tradition can help us feel Gods' love, Grow as faithful followers of Christ, and help in the "transformation of our world" in Christ. Here are our worship plans for the next several weeks.

February 3, 2019: Our Methodist DNA: Worship, why do we worship, what is the purpose, how can we get more from our worship, come and lets worship together and see what the Spirit has to say to us!

February 10, 2019: Our Methodist DNA: Songs of Praise. Music has been crucial to Methodism from the very beginning, and no not just in worship, how can making a joyful noise or singing out "with good courage" help us grow in faith?

February 17, 2019: Sending Our Love to Each Other's Churches: Join us for worship as Rev. Megan Thompson, Pastor Jeremiah's Spouse, shares the message with us, as she and Jeremiah do a pulpit exchange to send their "Love" to each other's congregations! Megan will be talking about how Methodism calls us to personal piety, but also actively working to transform our world in Jesus Name!

February 24, 2019: Our Methodist DNA: the Family Dinner Table: why communion, why has it been central to Methodism from the beginning (John Wesley our founder encouraged people to take it every day if possible) Why do we have a table that welcomes all? Let's talk about this ritual that brings us together and offers us God's Grace in Jesus Christ.

March 3, 2019: Our Methodist DNA: Why I Chose to be a United Methodist: there are many churches of many types to help many different people connect with Christ, what does our tradition offer in summary that can help Christ change your life and help you in Christ change our world!



Honor your loved ones with beautiful alter flowers! The sign up sheet is on "The Board" and cost is \$20. Payment may be mailed to the office, or placed in the collection plate on any Sunday.

The Mission Team was able to donate to Loaves and Fishes a total amount of \$1,665 and a total of \$604 to UMCOR in December. Thank you for your contributions!

The Prayer Shawl ministry is running low on supplies. If you would like to drop off any prayer shawls that you have graciously taken the time to knit or crochet, you may drop them off to the office. Thank you!



*Wesley United Methodist Church
Celebrates*

Dylan Andrew Moe (son of Andrew & Heidi Moe)
Received in Baptism
on December 23, 2018

*In Loving
Memory*

OF THOSE WHO ARE
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



*Barbara Grace
(Nelms) Frazer*

1915-2019



*George "Benny"
Fenn*

1929-2019

Birthdays

February 1 Debbie Hodges
February 2 Carol Cravatta, Al Rude
February 3 Diane Rude
February 7 Stacey Stutzke
February 8 Brandon Fredericks
February 12 Kari Hansen, Warren Heuck
February 16 Rachael Turffs
February 17 Tracy DuRall, Liz White
February 18 Corrine Smith, Erma Robinson

February 19 Mary Nelmes
February 20 Jack Graves, Gary Swart
February 21 Jessica Truedson
February 24 Lynn Majewski
February 25 Mary Michel
February 28 Holly Taylor-Vrhel

Anniversaries

February 13 Nick & Shay Papoccia
February 14 Dave & Roberta Fredericks
February 15 Luke & Phyllis Stutzman
February 22 Matt & Chris Larson
February 23 Doug & Ann Wiersema

Bread Hosts

Februarys host is Sue Klock. Thank you Bill and Max Parker for hosting January!



Servers for February- 8 a.m.

	Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
February 3	Randy & Pam Clodfelter	Amy Lopez
February 10	↓	Isaac Halverson
February 17		Jan Glover
February 24		Jeff Davey

Coffee Hosts

February 3rd Steve & Mary Downes
February 10th Steve & Amy Lopez
February 17th Mary Anne Batten, Norma Church, Mary Spitzer
February 24th Tim Scwhingle family

Servers for February - 10 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers/Acolytes	
February 3	Bill & Sue Abate	Greenfield family	
February 10	↓	↓	
February 17			Fitzanko family
February 24			Rick & Karen Palmer

Liturgist
 Aaron Marken

 Jamie Greenfield

 Bob Allen

 Rick Palmer

Wesley United Methodist Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Open Heart, Open Minds, Open Doors

You are invited to join us for worship Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m. with Sunday School and fellowship at 9 a.m.

Mission Corner

Wesley has always been a mission-minded church. The purpose of this space is to keep the congregation informed of our various mission efforts.

We currently are receiving:

- Donations of bedding, small appliances, and other **household items** to support Trinity UMC and the VA Clinic/Valor Program, as they work to find homes for local veterans. A list of needed items is on the table in the fellowship hall.
- **Toothpaste and Toothbrushes** for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- **Loose coins** to benefit Mujila Falls Agricultural Research and Training Center, Zambia #15016A in February.