



WUMC Community Pathway

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

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MARCH 2019



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PASTOR'S CORNER

March 2019

And we know that God makes all things work together for good to those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 (NIV)

I am sure you are all aware of the momentous things that have happened with the United Methodist Church over the past week. As we spoke about previously, a **Special Called General Conference** (the primary legislative and governing body of the denomination) met last weekend in St. Louis, MO. The purpose of that conference was to determine (at least theoretically) how our denomination will move into the future regarding issues of human sexuality—specifically the ordination of avowed homosexuals and the issue of same-sex marriage. As you are probably aware these issues have significantly torn our denomination away from its **primary mission: To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.**

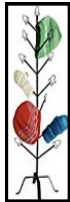
As might be expected, the conference was a bitter contest of conflicting theologies and practices. In the end, the so-called Traditional Plan was adopted. **This plan affirms the denomination's historical doctrine that the practice of homosexuality is contrary to Scripture, while affirming that ALL PERSONS are persons of holy worth to God.** The issue was really all about how we approach the word of God that we call the Bible. Those on the traditional side affirm several places in the Bible where homosexuality is condemned as sin, which those on the more "progressive" side focus not so much on Old Testament proscriptions but on the life and teachings of Jesus, "love one another as I have loved you." In simplest terms, the traditional view is that the whole Scripture is accurate and the will of God while the other view is that Jesus overturned some of it.

There is **much that is still undecided** about the Traditional Plan. It called for leaders at all levels of the denomination to affirm that they will abide by the language of the doctrine, or face church discipline. Those who cannot in good conscience do so will be encouraged to seek membership in another denomination. Also included in the Traditional Plan was a plan of separation that would allow churches that cannot abide by the prohibitions about human sexuality to leave the denomination with their building and property intact—if they paid one full year of Apportionment/Ministry Shares payments and paid all clergy pension payments. This last part has been declared unconstitutional by the Judicial Council—the primary judicial body of the denomination. Some amendments were attempted at General Conference to resolve the unconstitutional issues but demonstrations that happened by the "losing" side did not allow the amendments to be acted upon.

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MITTEN TREE TIME!

March will be our last month to gather mittens, gloves, scarves, hats (infant through adult sizes); hand-made, OR purchased, OR gently used for organizations such as the Baby Pantry, TC Alternative High School, ACTS, Women's Resource Center, and more. This is an ongoing mission through March. Thank you so much!



Check the calendar for the Lenten Lunches Schedule!

"Amazing Love-love as I Have Loved You"

11:30-1pm each Thursday during Lent @ TC Presbyterian Church (701 Westminster, TC)



Next Women's Fellowship Meeting is Sunday, April 4th after church! "Prayer Rock" Project



Did you know?
The first St. Patrick's Day Celebration in the U.S. was held in Boston in 1737
Happy St. Patrick's Day!
Sunday, March 17th



Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, March 6th
Services:
5pm @ Williamsburg UMC
7pm @ South Boardman UMC



Upcoming Dates in April:
Sun. 14th—Palm Sunday
Mon. 15th—Unified Parish PPRC @ 6pm EBUMC
Wed. 17th—Unified Parish Council @ 6pm EBUMC
Thurs. 18th—Maundy Thursday Service & Seder Meal @ WUMC
Fri 19th—Good Friday Service
Sun. 21st—EASTER SUNDAY

COLLECTING YOUR USED GREETING CARDS!

COLLECTING YOUR POSTMARKED STAMPS!

Church Women United are collecting these items!

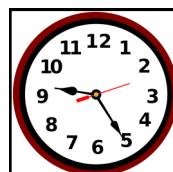
On the postage stamps, please cut the envelope at a diagonal to make sure there's plenty of paper around the stamp.

THANK YOU!



Sunday, March 10th

- **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS! (spring forward)**
- **POTLUCK AFTER CHURCH!**





March's Noisy Offering is Supporting Red Bird Mission.

Red Bird Mission began in 1921 when two teachers and a United Evangelical pastor John J. DeWall came to the mountains to build a school and dormitory. Red Bird Mission is striving to be a witness for Christ throughout its program ministries. More information found on the bulletin board in the Narthex or their website: rbmissions.org Thank you!

March 2019

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AA SCHEDULE Monday, 7:30pm Wed. Women Only, 7pm Saturday, Men Only 10am; Saturday, everyone, 7pm					1	2
3 10:15 Worship Svc/ Communion	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday 3pm @ Samaritas 5pm @ WUMC 7pm @ SBUMC 	7 11:30am Lenten Luncheon @ TC Pres. Church	8	9 Set your clocks For- ward to- night! 
10 10:15 Worship Potluck! (St. Patrick's Day Theme)	11	12	13 3pm All Faith Svc. @ Samaritas	14 11:30am Lenten Luncheon @ TC Pres. Church	15	16
17 10:15 Worship 	18	19 No AD Council mtg. Rescheduled for 4.30	20 3pm All Faith Svc. @ Samaritas	21 11:30am Lenten Luncheon @ TC Pres. Church	22	23
24 10:15 Worship 31 10:15 svc BRUNCH!	25	26	27 3pm All Faith Svc. @ Samaritas	28 11:30am Lenten Luncheon @ TC Pres. Church	29	30

March Celebrations!

4th Gracelyn Hamilton

5th Stanley Goss

8th Holly & Shane Barrett's Anniv!

9th Neil Morrison

10th Lexi Hamstra

12th Jan Donkers

12th Callie Thomas

13th Rod Kuncaitis

15th Judy Jenkins

15th Pattie Conklin

17th Dana Kuncaitis

19th Lisa Walter

21st Dwain & Wanda Provins' Anniv!

26th Wendy Walter

26th Carol & Jim Hockin's Anniversary!

St. Patrick's Day

word scramble

IIRHS _____ LDOG _____

OABIRWN _____ KAPCIRT _____

ADIELRN _____ NEEPHEARCU _____

MHSOKCRA _____ HRCMA _____

YKLCU _____ ENRAGE _____

BACBAEG _____ ORLECV _____

NETESENEV _____

TISNA _____

ARDEAP _____

ACDNE _____



What does this all mean? To be honest, no one is very sure, other than that the General Conference has affirmed the historic restrictive language. How that will affect the denomination in the long term only God knows. There will, no doubt be many things debated at our Annual Conference in June and the regularly scheduled General Conference next year. I suspect many will leave the denomination—including many of my clergy colleagues—but only time will tell. I am, my friends, grieving; not the decision of the General Conference but that this issue has been allowed to fester for many years and the conference last week was bitter, divisive and, in my humble opinion, deeply embarrassing to the Christian Church. Many of my colleagues and friends on the other side of these issues are grieving deeply and I confess that I am grieving their grieving. These wounds will be a long time in healing.

That having been said, my friends, **I believe and stand by the promise that was printed at the top of the first page: *God DOES make all things work together for good for those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*** Pray for our church, beloved—both our own church here at Williamsburg but also the United Methodist Church, itself. All prayers are needed!

On a different note, as you know, our District Superintendent, Anita Hahn has served eight years with us, the maximum allowed by the *Book of Discipline*. **Beginning July 1, 2019, Anita, Kevin and their family will begin serving as pastoral family at Midland First United Methodist Church. Our new District Superintendent, Jodie Flessner,** is a highly skilled and rural church advocating pastor with whom I have had the honor of serving for many years. I know you will appreciate her and her leadership. We will welcome Jodie later this fall.

On **Saturday, May 11, beginning at noon, we will have a celebration of Anita Hahn's leadership with us, probably at Lake Ann United Methodist Church.** You all know of Anita's love for music so our plan—the **"Celebrate her Eight"** will include (we hope) eight different kinds of worship music presented by different groups within our Northern Waters District, along with plenty of opportunities to thank Anita for her service with us, culminating with a worship service. Please mark your calendars. As more things are finalized, I will pass them along to you. **We might even begin thinking of some special parting gift to give to Anita, just from us. Put on your thinking caps, friends.**

I don't know about you but, while I celebrate God's wondrous diversity and the beauty of this wonderful region—I am ready to have our temps get above freezing once again. Meanwhile, though, we have lots of work to do; **making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community. Will you join me?**

Peace and love in Christ our Lord!

Pastor Jack



MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

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