



WUMC Community Pathway Williamsburg United Methodist Church

5750 Williamsburg Road
Williamsburg, MI 49690

Wumctoday.com

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Office Hours: Mon. 9-12, Wed. 9-3, Thurs. 9-12

P A S T O R J A C K ' S C O R N E R

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

These are wonderful words, found in a letter written by St. Paul to the persecuted but oh-so-faithful church on Philippi, are just as encouraging to us as they must have been to the original recipients. In fact, if you are feeling a bit overwhelmed, experiencing pressures from the world around you, or doubting about God's love for you, the short book of Philippians is always a good place to turn. In it we are continually reminded that God is so much greater than anything this world can throw at us. I encourage it to you, especially these days when there seem to be so many things to worry about, to stress about, and to almost give up hope about. Remember friends, God is Creator of this world. Remember friends, God is Greater than this world. And remember, friends, God will one day reclaim this world. It does, after all, belong to Him. We can cling also to the words that Paul wrote to the Romans (8:15-17) 15 for you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. And by Him we cry "Abba Father" [Abba is a Greek word that mean, essentially, "Daddy" or "Pappa"] 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now, if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His suffering in order that we may also share in His glory.

Imagine that, beloved! We are "co-heirs" with Christ in God's heavenly Kingdom. An heir is one who receives all that the Father has-and that is God's promise to us. Therefore, there is nothing the world can throw at us that God will not overcome. As I hinted at the beginning, the folks in Philippi faced some pretty heavy persecution. (After all, Philippi was a sub-capital of the Roman Empire and was filled with shrines, and businesses supporting the shrines, to a large number of pagan Roman gods.) Even still Paul could encourage them to "Rejoice!" because their *Abba* had so much greater things in store for them. And that is also true of us who believe and trust in Christ! The world will throw all kinds of difficult things our way, but we can still rejoice because of what awaits us when the trails of this world are behind us forever. That is Good News, don't you think?

To keep you up-to-date, there are some very **big changes** coming to our denomination, especially in Michigan, over the next few months:

DISTRICT: Our current district will get much larger-extending all the way to Lake Huron, but shrinking slightly at the tip of the mitt and at the south. In case you are wondering, the new district will contain only a few more churches than the old one! For the entire state, the thirteen current districts in Michigan are being reduced to nine. On April 22, several members of our parish attended a New District Organizational Meeting in Gaylord at which we learned that as of July 1st, we would no longer be the "Grand Traverse District" but would now be known as the "Northern Waters District". Rev. Anita Hahn will remain our district superintendent, at least for another year. (The Book of Discipline limits district superintends to eight years in that office-and Anita is in her eight year now).

CONFERENCE: The new district structure has been done in order to prepare for the joining together of our current West Michigan Annual Conference and the Detroit Annual Conference that encompasses the rest of the state. On January 1, 2019, we will become the Michigan Area Annual Conference. Bishop David Bard, who has served as bishop for both Michigan conferences will now have only one conference staff and one set of conference policies to work with. Please pray for the bishop and the new conference staff during this busy time. **At our Annual Conference held last weekend at the Grand Traverse Resort, several members of our parish volunteered their time to assist conference attendees to find the right places at the right times. This "Grace Patrol" included Darlene Renzema, Jim & Carol Hockin, Carol Walter, Doris Norton, Bonnie Brinks, Jim & Diana Wright and Rich Hargreaves from Williamsburg, along with Denny & Barb Meyer and Jerry & Betty Crim from Fife Lake UMC. Thank you all for a great effort!**



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C O N T I N U E D . . P A S T O R J A C K ' S C O R N E R

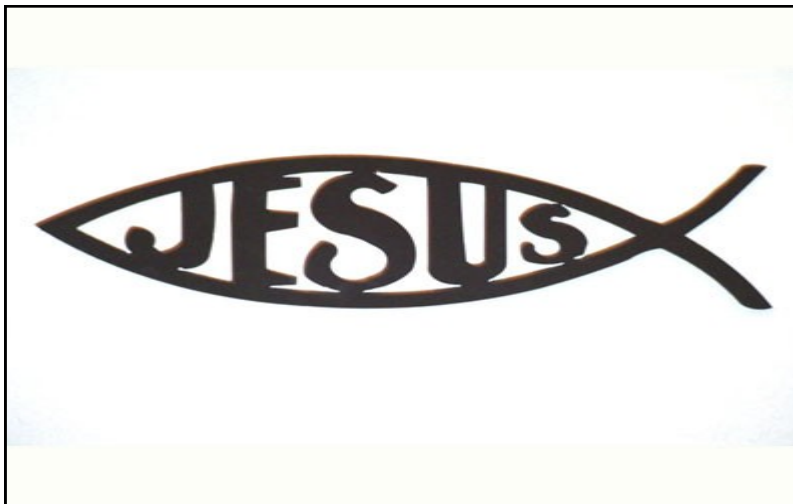
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

As many of you are aware, there has been a great deal of conflict within the United Methodist Church—and most other denominations, for that matter—in recent years, over the issue of human sexuality, especially regarding the ordination of LGBTQ persons into ministry. Our current *Discipline* claims that the practice of homosexuality is “contrary to Christian teaching.” At the same time, our *Discipline* reminds us that “all persons are of sacred worth.” In other words, regardless of where we stand on the issue of sexual identity, we are called by God to love and to care for all persons who come within our ministry. The real struggle about the issue has been how one views the authority of Scripture: Is the Scripture the inspired word of God, proclaiming the truth of God and God’s will, or is the Scripture a document written by human hands and entirely based on the context of the time when it was written? This may seem like ridiculous hair-splitting except that there are several places in the Old Testament and the New that condemn homosexuality, while also proclaiming God as a God of love and forgiveness. These issues have divided our denomination in greater and greater ways over the years. At the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church there was a strong movement (from both sides of the issue) to divide the denomination into two new ones, one more conservative, one more liberal. The Council of Bishops, instead, came up with a compromise, of sorts: They formed a “Commission on the Way Forward,” tasked with developing alternatives to deal with these issues. The bishop’s intention was to try to find a way to keep the denomination together. They called for a special session of the General Conference in February, 2019 to review the recommendations of this commission and to try to settle this issue once and for all.

It is a sad thing: In 1968, fifty years ago, our United Methodist Church denomination came into being, with the merging of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. There is great uncertainty about whether there will still be a United Methodist Church in the next two years. Please pray for God’s will to be done in all of this.

But, I bring us back to where we started. GOD IS IN CONTROL and God’s Church—whether there is a United Methodist Church or not, will continue and grow in His service. Therefore, we can “Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again, rejoice!”

He Is Always King! Amen! Pastor Jack



ACTIVITIES

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

**Saturday June 16 4-8pm
Silent and Live Auctions!**

- **Strawberry Shortcake**
- **A la mode**
- **Strawberry Sundaes**

**FREE-WILL
OFFERING**



ACTS

(Acme Christian Thrift Store)

Needs Volunteers!!

Contact Carol

Hockin @

231.492.6952

Mark Your Calendars!

Family Camping

Weekend at East

Boardman UMC

July 13th-15th



**JUNE'S NOISY
OFFERING**
Pregnancy Care Center



**Please consider signing
up to water the flowers
at the church this sum-
mer! There is a sign up
sheet in the Narthex.
Let's work together to
keep the church look-
ing beautiful.
Thank You!**



**Evenings on River
Street begins on
June 20th!
Games for Kids,
Music, Food and
Live Entertainment
every Wednesday
night through
Aug.1st. Sign up
sheet available to
volunteer.**

JUNE CELEBRATIONS!

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 4th Bruce Gualtiere | 20th Walt Williams |
| 6th Merle Morgan | 20th Chuck & Carol Walter's 54th Anniv! |
| 8th Steve Donkers | 22nd Darlene Renzema |
| 8th Clara Moon (100th!) | 22nd Bonnie Brinks |
| 13th Janet Goss | 22nd Kyle & Kayla Hershberger's 5th Anniv |
| 14th Krissy John | 29th Bill & Judy Avitts' 61st Anniversary! |
| 15th Kayla Hershberger | 30th Joe Kuncaitis |
| 18th Beth Bronkema | |
| 19th Tom & Grace Bloxsom's 69th Anniv | |

June 2018

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
					ANNUAL CONFERENCE GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ANNUAL CONFERENCE			All Faiths Wor- ship Service 3pm @ Samaritas	Help with the church flower beds at 9am 		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
WUMC Ad Council MTG. after service			All Faiths Wor- ship Service 3pm @ Samaritas			Strawberry Social 4-8 @ WUMC 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Happy Fathers Day!			All Faiths Wor- ship Service 3pm @ Samaritas Evening on River Street! 6pm-9om			V.C.I. mtg. Ros- common @ 9am Pete's Sweet Treats—For Pete Peters 1- 4pm @WUMC
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Brunch after the Service!			All Faiths Wor- ship Service 3pm @ Samaritas Evening on River Street! 6pm-9om			



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