



This month represents one year until a special called General Conference session that will meet in Saint Louis, Missouri February 23-26, 2019. For those who do not know, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church is the one body within the church that sets policy and speaks on behalf of the entire denomination. They cover everything from amending our governing document – The Book of Discipline (BOD, going forward) – to passing resolutions that set ministry priorities or speak to important issues throughout the world. The body usually convenes every four years – the last time was in 2016 – but there is an issue, threatening to split the entire denomination, that church leadership believes deserves its own special conference.

The issue is human sexuality, or how the church should organize itself around the LGBT community. Let me give you some backstory. The United Methodist Church was formed in 1968, as a result of a merger between the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church. If you note the year, you will no doubt remember that this merger took place in the middle of a time of great social change. The country and world were learning about – among many other things – the LGBT community and what that would mean for them.

At the time of the merger, the BOD did not mention the LGBT community at all. In 1972, the BOD was amended to read that the lifestyle of people within this community was “incompatible with Christian teaching”. A broad reading of scripture *may* suggest as much, while many – even within the church – would suggest otherwise. Either way, the world would not soon forget the battle of ideas surrounding this issue, and neither would the church. The issue has been battled over in each successive General Conference since 1972. The battle over this issue has become a powder keg that everyone agrees should finally be resolved.

As a result of discussions and actions at the 2016 General Conference, the Council of Bishops (comprised of all the bishops across the denomination) appointed The Commission on the Way Forward. This is a group made up of people from all across the spectrum of opinion concerning this issue. Their purpose has been to prayerfully consider how the church should organize itself where the LGBT community is concerned.

While there is much more context to this that I cannot share in just this article, what you need to know is that the Commission is discussing the viability of three different plans for moving forward. The first is an option that says things should stay the same, meaning the language around incompatibility will remain in the BOD and pastors and churches will be held accountable for their disobedience around the issue. The second is colloquially called the “local option”, where it would be up to individual pastors and churches to decide what stance works according to their conscience. And finally, the third option would make the UMC an “umbrella” under which three different “branches” would reside – a moderate branch, a conservative branch, and a progressive branch.

The Commission is working hard and the Council of Bishops has called on the entire church to remain in prayer for the work leading up to this very consequential meeting of the governing body of our church. I call on us all to do the same. Whatever decision is made, this is a time that will undoubtedly test the church. It will not be an easy time. What we should not do is let this time be a time where we neglect the mission each church has been given to reach the world with the gospel. I believe we can “walk and chew gum”, as it were.

So, let’s pray for the UMC, all those in conversation for this important time in the life of the church, and for us all to continue to be engaged in our own faith, in order to engage others to the same.

Peace,

10 Tips for a More Meaningful Lent *(www.umc.org)*



Instead of doing the usual like giving up something for Lent, try some alternative ways to enhance your Lenten experience with these 10 tips:

1. Apologize to someone
2. Perform random acts of kindness
3. Delve into a book of the Bible
4. Serve people in need
5. Visit the lonely
6. Read Wesley's sermons about the Sermon on the Mount
7. Tell others you love them
8. Throw a party for someone
9. Serve in worship
10. Say 'thank you'

There are many ways to be observant during Lent. So go ahead, try one, or all of these and grow more spiritually.

*Enhance
our worship
experience*

Flower Chart is Here!

The **2018 Flower Chart** is posted by the garden doors for anyone interested in signing up to provide altar flowers throughout the year in honor or in memory of someone, a special date, etc. Please write your name and the reason for the flowers on the chart (ex: in memory of...; in honor of...)

Please keep in mind, it is your responsibility for contacting the florist and the making arrangements as well as the payments directly with them. Payments are no longer taken at the church.

Thanks in advance for brightening up the altar.

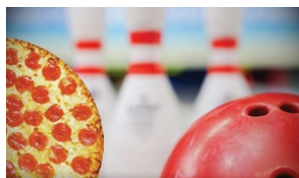
You're Invited!



Come listen and dance at the Wabash

Community Band Concert and Dance Band scheduled on Sunday, **February 11** at the Honeywell Center **Legacy Hall**, starting at **2 pm. THIS IS A FREE EVENT!** Refreshments will be provided.

Family Bowling & Pizza Event



Everyone is invited to an evening full of fun, food, and fellowship. On **Saturday, February 3**, all are welcome to come to Wabash Cannonball Lanes for some bowling and pizza. **Only cost is the \$2 shoe rental.**

If you plan to attend, please meet at the bowling alley between 5pm—5:30pm.

Once the bowling games are done, the youth will go back to Christ Church and put together sub sandwiches to fulfill the

orders requested per the signup sheets in the narthex. Subs will be sold and distributed February 4th after each service.

This service is part of the annual youth Super Bowl Sunday Sub Sandwich sale.

Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mary Davenport
 Lois Koehler
 Dorothy Hahn
 Richard Purdy
 Connie Rosen
 Janet Ross
 Phyllis Shambaugh
 Lowell & Marilyn Karns
 Gary Meyer
 Deloris Anderson
 Don Phillips (Kelli Singer's father)
 Einer Stoltzfus (Barb Adams' father)

Tom Boyll — cancer
 Teresa — cancer
 Joie (friend of Julie Henderson)
 Margie Eltzroth (Dave & Jane Wagmer's sister-in-law)
 Steve Reed (Kelli Singer's cousin)
 Tiffany Frank (Kelli Singer's cousin) - health concerns
 Alice Proffitt (heart/lung issues); (Henderson family friends)

College Students:
 Karla Singer, Lyndsie Thomas, Carli Henderson, Danielle Sparling

Military Personnel:

Daniel Smith (Frank & Barb Nordman's grandson)

Also pray for ...

- The leaders of our country
- Our shut-ins (make it a point to call them or send them a card)
- Those who have lost loved ones
- Those struggling financially
- Pastor Chris, church leaders, teachers, our youth and for church growth
- Those serving in our military and their families



Ash Wednesday Services at CUMC



There will be a special Ash Wednesday service in the evening of February 14th at 7pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to begin the Lenten season with your church family.



For those not able to make it to our Ash Wednesday evening service, Pastor Chris will be set up in the south entrance of Christ Church from 7am—5:30pm offering an Ash Wednesday drive thru service under the canopy where individuals can drive up and get ashes.



Lenten quarter holders will be available at the back of the Sanctuary and at the Welcome Center starting Sunday, February 11.

Feel free to take one and fill it during the Lenten season.

Serving for February 2018

8am Greeter — Frank & Barbara Nordman
10am Liturgist — 2/4 & 2/11: Lana Garber;
 2/18 & 2/25: Kortnee Singer

10am Greeters:

2/4 Deborah Lehman, Jon & Lisa Richards
 2/11 Deborah Lehman, Jon & Lisa Richards
 2/18 Dan Purdy, Ernie & Connie Passwater
 2/25 Dan Purdy, Ernie & Connie Passwater
 Ash Wednesday, 7pm: Linda McCaslin, Sheila Gilley

10am Ushers — Ellis Rice, Jacob Richards, Jon Richards, Dan Sparling

Scripture Reading for February

2/4 Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11;
 1 Corinthians 9:6-23; Mark 1:29-39
 2/11 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
 2/18 Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;
 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
 2/25 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;
 Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Ash Wednesday:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;
 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Services
Sunday 8 am & 10 am
Sunday School for all ages 9 am

Phone: 260.563.3308
Email: wabashchristumc@hotmail.com

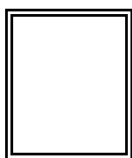


Items for the next newsletter should be submitted to the church office by **February 19th.**

We're on the Web!
wabashchristumc.org



[Check us out on Facebook!](#)



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