



CROSS TALK

FEBRUARY 2019 VOL. 3 ISSUE 6

A Spot of T

(Get it? 'Cause my last name starts with a 'T'?)



I recently had a meeting with a parishioner. At one point, the subject got around to “the vote”, which was shorthand for the special session of General Conference which will be taking place February 23-26 in St. Louis. Essentially, the sentiment expressed was “I don’t even know why it’s being put to a vote, because scripture is pretty clear on the issue of human sexuality.” This, as you no doubt know and maybe feel yourself, is not a uncommon reaction to our decades-long denominational fight over whether or not the church will decide to fully include LGBT persons in our communal life. However, as you may also know, there are plenty of people who believe a change to our Book of Discipline – including these persons – is long overdue.

As it stands, there are three main plans being considered by the delegates. I won’t enumerate them all here, but you may go to UMC.org and find information on all the pre-conference materials under the Commission on the Way Forward section of the website.

I’m not here to settle the argument once and for all. I am here to help you understand what might take place on February 27th. If any plan is passed at General Conference, there will be action local churches need to take. In any case, that won’t be immediately. In each case, the timeline could be anywhere from this fall to up to a decade. One of the plans is more involved and will take numerous steps to complete, which explains the long timeline.

Another option would be that the General Conference passes nothing. This has happened in previous conferences, and would not be totally surprising were it to happen this time. In which case, we might see a splinter group decide to leave the denomination, and churches could choose to join them.

Why am I taking time to go over what appears to be a convoluted and daunting set of options? Well, I could say nothing. At which point, I could spring all of this information on you at once and you would not be prepared for it. I have also chosen not to take up too much of our time in the pulpit or any other aspect of our congregational life with it, because of one, particular reason.

We will eventually have to do some type of work around this issue, but we don’t have to do it now. We are still a church in a particular place, and we have a mission – to be the gospel of Christ to the community around us. No matter what decision we make in the future, we are still the people of God in Wabash, Indiana – and we have a job to do.

Peace,



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



United
Methodist
Women

*Good reads
for everyone
to enjoy!*

2019 UMW Reading Program

Check out the new books on the UMW bookshelf in the lounge. Discover how life's best and worst times can shape you into your most authentic self or how being secure in God's inexhaustible love makes you free to love others. Visit places that make American society flinch or enjoy a good-humored, hopeful look at middle age. Everyone is welcome to read our diverse selection of books.

EDUCATION FOR MISSION

One: Unity in a Divided World – Put your focus on self-preservation aside and, like Jesus, make the first move towards reconciliation.

An Insider's Guide to Praying for the World – Prayer requests from around the world help you intercede with greater focus and understanding.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Soulmaking Room – The woman from Shunem extends radical hospitality to the prophet, Elisha, expecting no reward.

What We Need Is Here - Practicing the heart of Christian spirituality. It is simple, yet complex: Jesus is enough.

SOCIAL ACTION

Nobody Cries When We Die – For people of color living each day surrounded by violence and for whom survival is not a given, vocational discernment is more than “finding your purpose,” it's a matter of life and death (bonus book)

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY

When Did Everybody Else Get So Old? – The indignities, compromises and the

unexpected grace of middle life.

Hope for the Future – Stories that inspire us to call for justice for our children.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

First Expressions – A new kind of Methodist church for people not in church—listen and meet them where they are in their journey to Jesus.

Eleanor— A Spiritual Biography – The faith of the 20th century's most influential woman and how focus on Jesus fueled her commitment to social justice issues.



Online Giving Update

Our online giving efforts are coming along. **At this point, members can donate online through our Facebook page.** If you are on Facebook, find the **DONATE** button under the cover page. Select donate and it will

take you to the **VANCO** sign in/sign up page where you can create an account and make a transaction.

Next, we will include a link from our website. In the meantime, be on the lookout for some handouts and other

informational materials in the near future about the program, the GivePlus+ app coming, and more.

Thank you for your patience.

GIVEPLUS+
Powered By Vanco Payment Solutions

Fill up the Flower Chart

There is still time to sign up to provide altar flowers throughout the year.

The 2019 flower chart is posted by the garden doors. Feel free to sign up and provide altar flowers for those special dates when you

want to recognize someone, a special occasion, or remember a loved one. Write your name and the reason for the flowers on the chart (ex: in memory of... or in honor of...) If you have picked a date to provide flowers, you will

be responsible for contacting the florist and arranging payments with them directly. No payment will be taken here at the church.



Last quarter 17 households shopped Kroger using their Community Rewards card with a percentage of their sales going back to Christ Church. **The church's quarterly earnings were \$49.67.**

Thank you for supporting the church!

Valentine Luncheon

Family Life/Igniting Ministries invites everyone to the Valentine's Day luncheon on February 10 after the 10am service.

The meal will be prepared by the committee. There will be a craft station for the kids.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for food, fun and fellowship.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

If you have not provided the church office with your birthdate or wedding anniversary, please contact the church office so we may add those dates to our monthly calendars that are included with the our newsletter.

Serving for February 2019

8am Greeter — Frank & Barbara Nordman

10am Liturgist — Melanie Penn

10am Greeters

2/3 Linda McCaslin

2/10 Linda McCaslin

2/17 Linda McCaslin

2/24 Linda McCaslin

10am Ushers — TBD

Scripture Reading for February

2/3 Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

2/10 Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

2/17 Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

2/24 Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

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

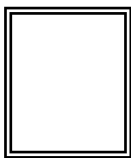


Items for the next newsletter should be submitted to the church office by **February 18th**.

We're on the Web!
wabashchristumc.org



[Check us out on Facebook!](#)



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