



The Wesley Message

Our Mission is to Love God and Our Neighbors

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The Rev. Clair Sauer, Pastor

From the Pastor

A Conversation on the Way Forward

Many of you have heard talk of the “big” United Methodist General Conference to be held February 23-26, 2019. You have probably heard the purpose of this General Conference is to decide the future of the United Methodist Church. This is probably a slight oversimplification of the purpose of the Conference, but the truth of the matter is that the general church has reached an impasse in regard to our stated beliefs around human sexuality and our polity related to that subject. The unequivocal hope of the majority of United Methodists is that we can find a way forward that will maintain the unity of the church; the General Conference in 2019 will seek to do just that.

Nevertheless, there are many questions and concerns about what exactly may happen at this conference in February 2019. To that end, the Scenic South District (our District), will be hosting four of our delegates (voting members) to the special General Conference on Sunday afternoon, October 21, 3:30pm, at Christ United Methodist Church (8645 E Brainerd Road). The delegates will give information about the General Conference and the proposals for a “Way Forward,” and they will be available to answer questions. (If you are unable to attend the session on October 21, another will be held at Ooltewah UMC on Saturday, November 10, 10am.)

Following the October 21 presentation by the General Conference delegates, I will lead a four-week study/discussion that will look more in-depth at the proposals for a “Way Forward.” Our time together will also afford us the opportunity to look into our future as Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church and consider how we will move forward as a church in mission and ministry in the Brainerd Hills community (and beyond!), whatever may happen at the General Conference in February. This study will begin on Wednesday, October 24. We will meet each Wednesday from 6-7pm (except Oct. 31 & Nov 21) for study and discussion. If you wish to be a part of the study, please let me know.


I look forward, as always, to being the church of Jesus Christ with the great people here at Wesley Memorial!


Grace and Peace,


Pastor Clair

Looking Ahead

- Oct. 2 - SPRC Meeting at 6:30pm in the Bishop Hunt Room
- Oct. 3—Leadership Council Meeting at 6:00pm in the Library
- Oct. 7—No youth, Fall Break
- Oct. 21—Conversations about the Way Forward at Christ UMC, 3:30pm
- Oct. 27—Boy Scout Trunk or Treat
- OCT. 28—All Saints' Sunday Worship Celebration & Reception
- Nov. 10—Conversations about the Way Forward at Ooltewah UMC, 10:00am
- Nov. 11—Charge Conference at Tyner UMC, 3:00pm

 **James: Faith that Works**—We are currently in the midst of a five-week sermon series on the book of James. Through history, James' work has been a source of controversy because salvation is by grace through faith, not because of our own accomplishments. But James teaches us what faith that works looks like. This will be a great opportunity for us to think deeply about how we should live out our faith!

 A new **Financial Peace University class** started Sept. 23rd and is being held on Sunday afternoons at 3:30pm. If you or someone you know could benefit from Dave Ramsay's proven strategies to get out of debt, make sure to check out this class and get registered. More information can be found on the church website, or by speaking with Suzanne Rogers.

 **Sip&Seek Coffee Bible Study** has just begun their Fall discussions by studying "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place" by Beth Moore. This group meets in the Library every Thursday from 10-12noon to discuss guided weekly study questions, pray, serve and fellowship. Everyone is invited to join us as we open our hearts for what God has to teach us as a group and as individuals. Contact Jane Newman for more information. cre8dzins@gmail.com

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church

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Prayer Concerns

CURRENT CONCERNS: Friends and Family of John Dyer, Janice Coleman, Bonnie Colquitt, Alisha Borders (Friend of Karen Mansfield), Deane Barker, Tom Steffner, Fred Thomas (Friend of Pam Brooks), Joyce (Friend of Ken Levi), Steve & Susan Cox (Uncle & Aunt of Pastor Clair)

ONGOING MEDICAL CONDITIONS: Don & Ann Anderson, Dot & Gene Arnold, Hope Atchley, Don Bowers (Father of D. J. (Valorie) Bowers), Betty Brickman, Steve Brothers, Pete Bryant, Malinda Cawthorne (Cousin of Brenda Fields), Margaret Ellington, Inez Ernst, Sara Feely, Hazel Garner, Will Hagaman (Nephew of Debbie Hackney), Gail Hathaway (Sister of Joy Billings), Patsy Herren (Daughter of Steve Brothers), Sid Hodges (Brother-in-law of Margaret Ellington), Chris Holder (Brother-in-law of Jackie Ernst), Freda C. Johnson (Sister-in-law of Bonnie Colquitt), Eleanor Jones, Becky & Harold Kailo and Judy Arp (Friends of Karen Mansfield) Christopher Ledford (Friend of Rick Mansfield), Lydia Lloyd, Mike Lynn (Friend of Pam Brooks), Susie Magnuson (Friend of Karen Mansfield), Kathy Mansfield, Rev. Ben Matherly, Mike McAfee, David Minnick (Father of Kelsey Shaver), Jon Moeller (Brother-in-law of Pastor Clair and Ken), Dot Pate, Chuck Poole (Friend of Hendrixsons), Randy Starnes, Floy Strickland, Paul Strickland, Becky Sullivan (Friend of Pam Varnell), Shellie Thorne (Friend of Karen Mansfield), Barbara Uren, J. Dan Weeks (Friend of Pam Varnell)

MILITARY: MC/MM Scott Gamble – US Navy (Goose Creek, SC)

ASSISTED LIVING and NURSING HOMES: Betty Brown – Standifer Place (Room 321), Joyce Durham – Elmcroft of Shallowford (Mother of Starr Alexander), Dorothy Orr – Lifecare of Collegedale (Mother of Sue Steffner), Becky Teague – Southern Oaks (Room 210)

**Attendance & Offerings for
September 2018**

OFFERINGS (For 9-2 thru 9-23) \$26,279.77

Sunday School (Average) 32
Morning Worship (Average) 62



**Happy
October
Birthday!**

- 13 Charlie Hargis
- 14 Lydia Lloyd
- 16 Margaret Ellington
Debbie Hackney
- 29 J Newman

**IN MINISTRY FOR THE MONTH OF
October 2018**

USHERS/GREETERS

Dick Blabon, Karen Mansfield
Hector Pagan

LAY LEADER:

Jane Newman

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

10/07	Tom Steffner
10/14	Jerri & CD Hilliard
10/21	Eric Burnett
10/28	Connie & Naomi Hay

ALTAR GUILD:

Kathy Andrews & Jane Newman

ALTAR FLOWERS:

The Church

AUDIO-VIDEO:

Dan Coleman & Kip Smith



We welcome **Lynda Reese** as our newest Member to Wesley Memorial. Lynda comes to us by transfer from Transformation Community UMC in Harvey, IL. We are delighted with her decision to make Wesley her church home.