



The Methodist Messenger
FEBRUARY 2019
Whiteville United Methodist Church



Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Communion Service - 6:00 p.m.

AS THE SPECIAL CALLED
2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE
APPROACHES, LET US PRAY.

O gracious God,
we pray for your holy Church universal,
including The United Methodist Church,
that you would be pleased
to fill it with all truth, in all peace.
Where it is corrupt, purify it.
Where it is in error, direct it.
Where in any thing it is amiss, reform it.
Where it is right, establish it.
Where it is in want, provide for it.
Where it is divided, reunite it.
For the sake of him who died and rose again,
and ever lives to make intercession for us,
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

(#501 The United Methodist Book of Worship [slightly edited]
from The Book of Common Prayer)

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON THE SPECIAL CALLED 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE

From "*This Is It*"
Sung by Kenny Loggins
You think that maybe it's over.
Only if you want it to be.
Are you gonna wait for your sign, your miracle?
Stand up and fight.
This is it.
Make no mistake where you are.
This is it.
Your back's to the corner.
This is it.
Don't be a fool anymore.
This is it.
The waiting is over.
No room to run, no way to hide.
No time for wondering why.
It's here, the moment is now.
About to decide.

From "*I'll Be Around*"
Sung by The Spinners
This is our fork in the road.
Love's last episode.
There's no where to go, oh no.

1. In "This Is It," Kenny Loggins musically begged his father to fight for his life. In "I'll Be Around," The Spinners musically promised a love that would endure rejection. Both songs lift up the need for decision-making. The necessity of decision. Decisiveness. That is what the 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church is about: finally deciding a "way forward" for the church.

2. Around 1,000 United Methodist delegates and alternate delegates (who can replace delegates who must take temporary or permanent leave of the conference) will gather in St. Louis, MO for the 2019 General Conference. From February 23 (Saturday) until February 26 (Tuesday), delegates will be, and work, together under The Dome (located in America's Center Convention Complex). On Saturday, delegates will pray and prepare for decision making. On Sunday, delegates will officially organize themselves into General Conference, hear a report from the Commission on a Way Forward on its three plans (Connectional Conference Plan, One Church Plan, and Traditional Plan), and decide which plan would best direct The United Methodist Church into the future by ordering the church's doctrine (teaching) and discipline (governance) around human sexuality. On Monday, delegates will morph into one legislative committee to consider, amend, and approve/reject petitions ("bills" related to the accepted plan and those unrelated). And on Tuesday, delegates, as General Conference, will consider (that is, vote to amend, and then accept or reject) the petitions that were approved on Monday, discuss the future of the church, and worship the Triune God who gave birth to the Church and who sustains and leads the Church.

3. The 2019 General Conference involves 864 delegates from around the world. Here is the breakdown of delegates by jurisdiction: North Central (US) 92, Northeastern (US) 86, South Central (US) 108, Southeastern (US) 188, Western (US) 30, Africa Central 42, Congo 138, West Africa 80, Europe 40, Philippines 50, and Concordat 10.

4. At its best, General Conference makes its decisions through fair, democratic deliberation (what United Methodists call "Christian conferencing") that is based on the Bible -- with the Church's Tradition, reason, and Christian experience helping to interpret the Bible -- in the power of the Holy Spirit. General Conference decisions that are based on the Word of God can, and should, be understood to be a part of the rule of Jesus Christ over His Church.

5. A majority of United Methodist bishops favors

the One Church Plan. Proof of that fact can be viewed at their website www.onechurchplan.org. Its homepage boasts: "One Church Plan/As supported by a majority of bishops of The United Methodist Church." (As if that fact, alone, should persuade the reader [not to mention General Conference] to support the One Church Plan.) They speak and write in favor of the One Church Plan because they think that, if the plan is approved by General Conference, it would better preserve the unity of The United Methodist Church than the Connectional Conference Plan or the Traditional Plan.

6. For decades, many bishops have ignored church teaching on human sexuality. They have not taught it. They have not defended it. Some of them have even taught their own opinions that went against the teaching of the church they were consecrated to lead. For decades, some bishops have not upheld the discipline of the church. When church discipline was blatantly broken (often to create a media storm), they would turn away from the violation or bend due process to favor the violators. A few bishops have presided at same-sex marriages. One retired bishop did so in the episcopal area of a resident bishop, even when the resident bishop respectfully requested the retired bishop to refrain from doing so. A clergywoman, in a same-sex marriage, was elected bishop -- as bishops presided over the election process of a Jurisdictional Conference. This misbehavior by bishops has caused dithering and division in The United Methodist Church. And now, exactly those bishops whose misbehavior has disrupted the church for decades stand up and claim that General Conference should adopt their favored One Church Plan -- for the sake of church unity. That seems hypocritical.

7. The Traditional Plan is the only plan among the three that maintains teaching on human sexuality that is consistent with the teaching of the Bible, of our Lord, and of His Church through the ages. That is why this pastor favors the Traditional Plan. The other plans relativize teaching on human sexuality; that is, they turn it into a matter of choice; that is, if you are a United Methodist, you get choices about what to believe about human sexuality, marriage, and ordination. That, it seems to this pastor, is a sure prescription for undermining the church's unity in a never-ending way.

8. The Traditional Plan also would beef up accountability processes in the church, so that United Methodists cannot break church law without consequence. It also contains a gracious-exit provision for clergy who, and congregations that, wish to withdraw from The United Methodist Church.

9. I believe the Traditional Plan, by the grace of

God, will pass the 2019 General Conference. If it does indeed pass, that will be but one small step -- and I do mean small -- for The United Methodist Church becoming more fully the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of Jesus Christ. Much, much more difficult work will remain. But through it all, Christ will be building His Church.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

SPECIAL OFFERING REPORT

During the 2018 Charge Conferences throughout the North Carolina Conference, a "Hurricane Florence school recovery offering" was received. At the end of 2018 or the beginning of 2019, Rev. Edie Gleaves (our Harbor District Superintendent) and Mr. Pat Litzinger (our Assistant to the District Superintendent) gave \$4,169 of that offering to the Columbus County Schools. In a January 3rd email, Mr. Litzinger noted: "Interim Superintendent Jonathan Williams and his staff [at the Columbus County Schools] were very grateful for the donation as well as all of the support that our United Methodist churches in Columbus County have given to public schools." To those who attended the 2018 Charge Conference on October 22 and contributed to this special offering, thank you.

DISTRICT LAITY LEADERS TRAINING

District Laity Leaders Training will take place in our Fellowship Hall on February 5, Tuesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. All Staff-Parish Relations Committee members, Church Council chairs, and Lay Leaders from the Harbor District will gather for this training.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

WUMM will meet on Thursday, February 7th, at 6:30 p.m. at Joe's Barbecue. Men of the church, please make plans to attend and enjoy the food and fellowship.

This will be a planning meeting regarding our annual Valentine's Day Dinner to be held at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, February 17th in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets this year are \$12.50 each for a delicious steak dinner, and special live entertainment will be provided by Chalmers Waddell and his bluegrass trio, due to their popularity at last year's dinner. The tickets can be purchased from Kathy Graham in the Church Office. - Brad Crowell, President UMM

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The Preschool and Mother's Day Out Playgroup are back in full swing after the holidays. The "Kids with Kindness" activity with the preschoolers is, and has been, creating art decorations for the monthly bulletin board for Shoreland Healthcare Center. We hope that you have liked our Facebook page, and you can follow all the exciting things we are doing and learning each week.

- Karen Dawsey, Director

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

We will be hosting the combined youth groups at our church this month on February 10 and 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served each night with the meeting immediately following until 7:30 p.m. Please encourage any youth from grades 6 - 12 to come out and enjoy the wonderful experience of fellowship and working with young Christians to better our community.

We visited the Boys & Girls Homes of NC at Lake Waccamaw for our meetings in January. A presentation was given in their beautiful chapel the first time, and we also toured the grounds and buildings the next. It was quite informative and inspirational!

Our Souper Bowl of Caring collection will be during Sunday School and worship on Sunday, February 3. Youth members will take donations of cash and checks; our mission project will be the Boys & Girls Homes of NC. Prayerfully consider helping us with this worthwhile project. Thank you for your continued support and prayers of the youth in our church. - Heather Lamora, Director

A FASHIONABLY BELATED
2019 VALENTINE'S DINNER
(AKA, United Methodist Men's Steak Dinner)
February 17/Sunday
6:30 p.m.
Tickets are available in the
Church Office for \$12.50.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Recently, so many people have used their talents and abilities to help make our worship services meaningful and inspirational. A sincere thank you to Suzanne Hall and our youth as they assembled the Nativity Scene as the Christmas story was shared with the congregation and to the Altar Committee and those persons in charge of acolytes, greeters, and banners as they are so faithful in their service week by week.

I am sure you will agree that WUMC has certainly been blessed recently with a variety of beautiful music. The Jane Wyche Schulken Handbell Choir and the Chancel Choir, with special selections from Wanda and Darryl Diefes, Wendy Hood, Ruth Kuykendall, Chalmers Waddell, and other musicians from around Columbus County, presented a "Service of Lessons and Carols" that was magnificent! Thank you, Nan, Gus, and Heather for your leadership! At our annual Christmas Eve Service, duets were sung by Wanda and Darryl Diefes, and Sara Painter and Gus Cothern. Wendy Hood also shared a beautiful anthem with the congregation at the New Year's Eve Service, as did Brian Hollingsworth in January. These beautiful voices and playing of instruments are truly gifts from God, and we appreciate you sharing them with us.

The Worship Committee will meet Thursday, February 7, 2019, in the Pastor's Study at 5:00 p.m. At this time, we will discuss our responsibilities for the upcoming Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission, which is scheduled for March 10-11. Other services to be discussed and planned are as follows: Ash Wednesday, the Lenten Community Services, Palm Sunday, those services associated with Holy Week, and Easter Sunday.

- Betty Gray, Chair

NURTURE COMMITTEE

We participated in the visitation reception for Jim High in January. What a fine tribute for a life well-lived. The ice cream and cookies served were a unique and great idea! The family said that he loved ice cream!

We are going to start planning the Lenten Lunches that will begin the first Wednesday after Ash Wednesday. We will also be decorating for the Valentine's Dinner - one of our church's most enjoyable events of the year - a fellowship of Christian love. I hope everyone can attend.

- Debbie Conway, Chair

THE 2019 CAROLYN T. HIGH PREACHING MISSION
The Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission will take place on March 10-11 (that is, Sunday-Monday). Dr. Roger V. Elliott, who once pastored Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh, will be the honored preacher of this year's Preaching Mission. This year's Preaching Mission has been delayed a month because of the special called 2019 General Conference -- which will take place February 23-26 -- in St. Louis, MO. The pastor will be observing the General Conference; and Marsha will be helping her brothers sort through their Mother's belongings in Kansas City, MO.

MAKING BEADED JEWELRY 101

Join us as we learn how to make beaded jewelry on March 18th at 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please pre-register between March 8-11th in the Church Office and pay the initial fee of \$5/bracelet or \$10/necklace so we know how many will attend and how many supplies will be needed.

- Dale Cichero



BEAD JEWELRY PRE-REGISTRATION

Name _____

Phone number _____

_____ \$5/per bracelet

_____ \$10/per necklace (up to 24 inches)

** Additional bracelets/\$5 each, necklaces/\$10 each.*



Whiteville United
Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 38
WHITEVILLE, NC

Mrs. Kathy Graham, Administrative Assistant
Monday-Thursday/8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
12 noon-12:30 p.m. Lunch

Mr. Layton Dowless, Custodian
Monday-Friday/7:30-11:30 a.m.

Ms. Tammie Anderson, Treasurer
Friday/4:00-6:00 p.m. (or later)

Rev. Paul T. Stallworth, Pastor

Whiteville United Methodist Church
email: wumc@whitevilleumc.org
mail: 902 Pinckney Street/Whiteville, NC 28472
telephone: (910) 642-3376
website: www.whitevilleumc.org

The Whiteville United Methodist Church Service of Worship is broadcast on WTXY 1540 AM and 103.9 FM from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Also it is available online at www.wtxy1540.com: click on "Click to Listen Live" under "United Methodist Church of Whiteville" at 10:00 a.m. to hear the complete audio of the service.

Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church
As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ's name.