



As some of you are well aware, the United Methodist Church will be meeting February 23-26 in St. Louis to talk about the issue of human sexuality and the United Methodist Church. I held an informational session on January 20th to talk about the three proposed plans and also the possibility that none of these plans will pass, and everything stays the way it is now. I would encourage you to take some time to look at these plans, or come and talk to me so that when a decision is made you can understand what that decision is. My goal is to be as open and transparent about the process as possible.

In preparation for this General Conference, the bishops of the UMC wrote a letter to the LGBTQ community. These are bishops from all spectrums of thought from left to right and from all parts of the world. I wanted to share this letter with you because I think it is important for us to keep in mind as we pray for our church. I want us to be aware, whether or not we agree with the LGBTQ community, that they are people of sacred worth and are children of God as well. We talked about how we all who are baptized, are called the children of God and the beloved. So, no matter if you agree or not I hope you hear these words from the bishops. Also, if you are on Facebook the UMCSC Facebook is sharing 40 days of prayer as we prepare for this General Conference.

In Christ,

Gene

For detailed information on the Plans developed by the Way Forward Commission go to:

<http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session>

Nursery Schedule 2019

February

3rd - Elizabeth Bowman/Catherine Ferguson

10th - Jane Jones/Janet Crenshaw

17th - Libba Carson/Randy Martin

24th - Help Needed



March

3rd - Heather/Benji Cumbie

10th - Jan Miller/Vicki Miesbauer

17th - Ashley/Drew Gelder

24th - Haley Lee/Terri Lee

31st - Karen Smith/Cindy Owens



Lovin' Sunday School



Children's Sunday School Schedule 2019

February

Younger SS

Katie Aiken

Heather Cumbie

Older SS

Trent Allen

Ginger Allen

March

Younger SS

Drew Gelder

Ashley Gelder

Older SS

Gene Aiken

Randy Martin



February

Grayson Bowman **1st** - Peggie Bodie **2nd** - Bill Carson **3rd** - Katie Ferguson **3rd** - Will Mullinax **3rd** - Larry Wisham - **9th** Cherylene Amidon **10th** - Gene Aiken **14th** - Taylor Ray **15th** - Logan Rice **16th** - Trent Allen **20th** - Virginia Norwood **22nd** - Mac McWilliams **24th**

March

Karen Martin **5th** - Neil Smith **8th** - Abigail Wingard **9th** - John Reeves **11th** - Mike Ferguson **18th** - Karen Sprouse **22nd** - Dot Johnston **24th** - Allison Wingard **25th** - Scott Smith **28th** - Elizabeth Finley **28th** - Johnnie Walker **29th**



March

John & Kristine Reeves **8th** - Trent & Ginger Allen **13th** - Ron & Eileen Nonnenberg **21st** - David & Cherylene Amidon **27th** - Scott & Karen Smith **30th**

The Church Calendar

The following take place at the Church unless otherwise indicated. In some cases more details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and/or will be forthcoming in a church bulletin. Events take place at the church unless otherwise indicated. Note that information for each Sunday's bulletin is due by 5:00p.m. on the Wednesday before. Email the church at: mtzion@nctv.com with "bulletin" on the subject line.



3rd - United Methodist Men's Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

6th - United Methodist Women meeting 2:30 p.m.

10th- The United Methodist Women will have their Valentine's luncheon after the worship service.

13th – Ash Wednesday

18th - Alzheimer's Support group on the third Monday of each month at 6:30.

23rd - 26th - General Conference Special Session - a Way Forward.

24th - March 2nd Family Promise week at Clemson UMC



3rd - United Methodist Men's Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

6th - United Methodist Women meeting 2:30 p.m.

10th – Daylight Savings Time Begins

18th - Alzheimer's Support group on the third Monday of each month at 6:30.

*Valentine's Day
Luncheon*



Annual Valentine's Meal

The **UMW** will be sponsoring its annual **Valentine Meal – A Traditional Pot Luck Covered Dish Dinner on Sunday, February 10 immediately following the worship service.** Everyone is invited to attend this fun time of fellowship with the

great food that the Methodist women (and men) are known for. It takes all of your contributions to ensure this Valentine's celebration is a success!

This meal is being sponsored by the UMW as a fund-raising event for missions, but we need your help. We won't be able to provide meat, so we desperately need your hearty casseroles, pasta, and vegetable dishes. Remember all the hams from last year! This is one of our favorite meals of the year. **LET US SHARE THE LOVE!** Invite a neighbor or friend to join us. Donations will be accepted and proceeds will go towards UMW mission work.





United Methodist Women Special Mission Recognition

On Sunday, January 13, Elizabeth Finley, UMW President, presented Scott Smith with the Special Mission Recognition pin. This pin is a meaningful way to honor a person who has dedicated time and effort to service.

There was also a monetary donation made to The Global Ministries of UMW in Scott's name. Talk about SERVICE!! Scott is standing at the front door handing out bulletins and greeting you on Sunday mornings. Scott is an usher, he takes up the collection, he hands out candles for candle light service, and he acts as substitute acolyte when needed. He is the "BBQ man" for the men's group at the Railroad Festival, he helps cook breakfast for the monthly men's club, cooks for our picnics, and in general is always around to help in all church events. He serves on many committees at church and offers sound input towards the operation of our church and its' building. So, yes, Scott Smith Dedicates time and service to Mt. Zion UMC. Thank you, Scott!

UMW,

Thank you so much for the special recognition on **Sunday the 13th** It meant so much to me & and my family.

Scott Smith

Alzheimer's Support Group

Update on Alzheimer's/ Dementia Support Group

The Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group continues to meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 at the church. Anyone who is a caregiver or wants to know more about what it is like to have a loved one with any form of dementia is welcome to attend. The group is open to anyone in the community. We have had a program from the Alzheimer's Association and are working on getting a program with Bishop Kenneth Carder who is a retired UMC bishop whose wife has dementia. If you have any questions about the group please feel free to contact Pastor Gene.



Rev. Bob Waddell passed away on **December 13th**. Rev. Waddell was pastor at Mt. Zion for nine years, 1972-1981.

Clara Bagwell Hunter passed away on **January 8th**. Mrs. Bagwell was the mother of Susan Pressley.



Friday, December 28, 2018

To our Global LGBTQ Kin in Christ,

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church recognizes the ways in which the convening of the Special Session of General Conference creates a time and space of harm for you and members of your family. To be the focus of attention, discussion and debate is hurtful.

DemEANing and dehumanizing comments and attacks on LGBTQ persons in conversations related to the upcoming February Conference are a great tragedy and do violence to hearts, minds, and spirits. When you suffer, the whole body of Christ suffers. Together, we need to work to resist hate, violence, and oppression of persons. In these attitudes and actions, great harm is done throughout the community, to the offended and the offender.

As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12: We cannot say to a part of the body, “I have no need of you.” We belong to each other. In our Baptism, we are incorporated into the Church, the body of Christ, and made one in Christ. The Church pledges to every baptized member: “Your joy, your pain, your gain, your loss, are ours, for you are one of us.” (*The UMC Book of Worship*, pg. 83). Our Book of Discipline clearly states that all people are of sacred worth.

As leaders of the church, we are brokenhearted by conversations that dishonor, objectify and dehumanize. We confess, as Bishops of The United Methodist Church and as we attempt to honor our convictions, that our actions and words have not always been life-giving or honoring of the LGBTQ community. Amid our sorrow, we seek to learn and grow in grace. To that end, we commit ourselves to helping people who disagree with each other to have conversations that include, honor, and respect people with different convictions. We are a diverse group of leaders—conservative, centrist, progressive—however, we are unified in our commitment to work together in ways that will give you and all God’s children strength, comfort and hope for better and more merciful tomorrows.

As the Special Session of General Conference approaches, we pray that the Holy Spirit will draw us together. May we see the image of God in one another, treat one another with tenderness, and love one another fiercely. Bearing Christ’s love in these ways, we pray to be God’s faithful witnesses.

The Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

Children's Ministry

The families with young children at Mt. Zion have had lots of fun together these past couple of months! **November's bonfire and hayrides** at the Smith home was spectacular. New this year was magical dust that changed the color of the flames! We did suffer one casualty to the creek this year - sadly Quint's football was unrecoverable.



In December we kicked off the **Advent season** in a big way. **Hanging of the greens** and decorating the Chrismon tree is always a special day at Mt. Zion. The children sang "O, Come All Ye Faithful" during the worship service, lead by Miriam Coffman, and performed a Christmas Card play following lunch in the fellowship hall. Ashley Gelder was very proud of all their hard work learning their lines.



In January we headed to **Greenville to ice skate**, and coming up in February, we're planning a bowling trip! It's a good time when the children and parents can do something together, and we always say the more the merrier, so feel free to invite a friend, a grandchild, or a dear neighbor to come along, will you?



Mt. Zion Surviving Spouse Support Group

Mt. Zion UMC started a support group for surviving spouses in **October, 2018**. The group has met several times for social interaction and support. The group currently has about

twelve members, mostly from Mt. Zion and from the surrounding area. We welcome anyone who would like to be a part of our group, no matter where they are in their journey of life without their spouse.

Meeting times and places vary, but we try to meet the first week of the month and will post meeting information on the Mt. Zion Facebook page. For more information, **contact Lynn Martin at 444-3392**.

Lost and Found?

If you have lost an umbrella, please check the umbrella stands in the sanctuary. There is currently no space in one of them to place a wet umbrella due to the ones that are living there. Some other items that have been left behind: thermal Clemson tumbler, dishes in the kitchen and sunglasses and bracelet in the nursery. Please call the office (639-2101) if you have lost or found something in the church.



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Address Correction Requested

