

REJOICE IN THE
LORD ALWAYS;
AGAIN I WILL SAY,
REJOICE.
PHILIPPIANS 4:4



MARCH 2019

The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF ST. MATTHIAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear St. Matthias Family:

I am writing to you with a heavy heart for the people of the United Methodist Church. No doubt you have encountered the news about the conclusion of the specially called General Conference on the matter of human sexuality, but if you haven't you can read the latest accounts www.umnews.org and www.nytimes.com/2019/02/26/us/united-methodists-vote.html.

While the Traditional Plan was passed by delegates 438 to 384, it is only a portion of the original plan as much of it was declared unconstitutional by the church's court, known as the Judicial Council, and will not take effect. Almost all the things that passed are basically things that are in the Discipline already. Some analysts argue that very little has functionally changed. Indeed the entire plan that remains is under review by The Judicial Council and will address the request at its next scheduled meeting April 23-25 in Evanston, Illinois.

General Conference, did also pass a disaffiliation petition, a so-called "gracious exit" that will take effect in January and some protections for the pension system.

There has been a great diversity of feelings about this outcome. Some are frustrated in the failure of the One Church Plan, which would have moved decisions on these issues to a local level. Others are rejoicing over the stand that the church will preserve in rejecting LGBTQ marriage and ordination in our denomination.

Collectively, there is deep brokenness, even among the 'winners' and 'losers' that comes from the disunity in the Body of Christ (see Romans 12), certainly in the United Methodist part but other regions of the body as well.

Clearly, there are many today who are deeply grieved by the actions of the Conference and experience this as a rejection from the Church and from God. Many will see this as hypocrisy, will struggle with this as a matter of faith, and find this as a barrier to connection with the United Methodist Church or any church.

Others are rejoicing and claiming this as a moral victory. Some people see this as not going far enough. Some will struggle with why and how people hold different points of view and scriptural interpretations than their own.

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A portion is having difficulty with demonizing or dehumanizing others. Some are wondering why this did not just resolve the matter.

Some are vowing to resist and either join or renew a struggle. Still others view this as an opportunity to steal sheep.

Many, most certainly our compassionate Lord, are hearing the anger and the painful tears of those who grieve for a variety of reasons.

Others are hopeful.

As followers of Jesus at this moment, It is essential that as we try to clarify our own thoughts and feelings about this, but in doing so, please let us do this with humility and prayer; listening for what God is saying to us at this moment.

It is also important to listen to others in this, again with humility and prayer, and including people whose thoughts and ideas, wounds and hopes, are different from our own. Jesus said, "Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate." (Luke 6:36, CEB)

Much remains the same. To be clear, "The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth." This acknowledgment is also affirmed in the belief statement of the Wesley Covenant Association, a principal proponent of the Traditional Plan and opponent of the One Church Plan. This language did not change.

Nor did the words change in our Discipline asserting that "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

The language in our Discipline also remains stating that, "All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status or economic condition shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection."

The Discipline language also remains to affirm that "Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation."

On Sunday I quoted, Rev. Don Underwood, Senior Pastor at Christ UMC in Plano, TX, and clergy delegate to General Conference in saying, "No matter how much we do to heal, or damage, the body of Christ in St. Louis, we will all return to mission fields where real people are experiencing deep pain, and where we claim to have the answer in the love of Jesus Christ...The answer will not be found [at the conference]. The answer will be found in our pews, where an amazing diversity of precious human beings gather each week to hear the Word proclaimed that God is love and that Christ is both Alpha and Omega."

We have work to do. Right now, it is clear that the job is, as it always has been, to love our God with our entirety and to love our neighbor as yourself (see Luke 10:27). This commandment comes from following Jesus, transcends disciplinary legislation and is expressed in what we say and do, personally first but as a group in some form. Listen carefully, love well, avoid judgment and follow the Lord into working for what is right. I am reminded of the Gospel lesson we heard last week in Luke 6: 27-38.

Much more will be said and written about this General Conference, but two immediate opportunities are available. Our District Superintendent and General Conference Delegate, Rev. Dr. Ted Smith, will offer a Post General Conference update tomorrow, February 28, Tabernacle UMC in Fredericksburg at 7:00 pm. This will also be offered on Saturday, March 2 at Trinity Catlett UMC 10:00 am, and Warsaw UMC 4:00 pm.

Bishop Lewis will offer "State of the Church: Where do we go from here?" on Monday, March 4, and you can watch her message live at 10 a.m. and on demand anytime after. Go to www.livestream.com/vaumc/stateofthechurch.

May God bless us on the road ahead,

Pastor Bert

pastorbert@stmatthiasumc.org

I encourage you to also check out the news articles at the United Methodist News Service umnews.org, which tends to be balanced and understand our United Methodist structure and ways of doing things.

June 30-July 6

Fred Camp is a Christian camp for high school youth working to repair Hearts and Homes in the Fredericksburg area. There is also a need for adult chaperones. A \$100 deposit is due to Jim Davis by March 17 for youth and adult chaperones planning to attend. Please contact Jim Davis for more information or visit www.fredcamp.org

PANCAKES AND PAINTING



TUESDAY, MARCH 5 @ 5:30 p.m.

Come support Children & Family Ministries

Join St. Matthias' Children & Family Ministries for a night of Pancakes & Painting. Pancake dinner starts at 5:30 followed by a painting party at 7:00 p.m. Love offering accepted for the pancake dinner to support new children and family programs. A craft fee of \$10 per family to participate in the painting party. Please sign up on the front bulletin board or RSVP to Jamie Gardner, 540-850-1987 or jandcgardner@yahoo.com.

OUTSIDE CLEAN UP & PICNIC

THEY'RE COMING: SPRING and SPRING CLEAN-UP!

Just as we are starting to spruce up our own yards at home, it's time to spruce up the yards here at church! Our flower beds are in need of some (okay, MORE than some) TLC, and the labyrinth needs to be freed of weeds and debris, as does the children's play area.

Saturday, April 6 (rain date, April 13), from 9 to noon will be the day for the St. Matthias family to pitch in and clean up! We'll work all morning, and at noon we'll stop and enjoy a potluck picnic together! Our goal will be to get the grounds in good shape for Palm Sunday and Easter, when we're apt to have many guests and visitors.

Please sign up on the main bulletin board, for both the clean-up and the picnic afterwards. Bring your rakes, clippers, trimmers, trowels, claws, kneeling cushions, gloves, and anything else you like to use when doing yard work. "Many hands make light the work," and God's house deserves our best efforts! Questions? Contact Mary Ella Fuquay at (540) 479-8265, or mefuquay@gmail.com.

Come and Get It!

"Beef Stew and Biscuits" is scheduled for Sunday, March 31 in the fellowship hall right after the second service. The sign-up sheet is on the front bulletin board and we need you!!! We are preparing the food right now but need an accurate count so we have enough of this delicious food ready to enjoy. This will be our first fundraiser for the Rise Against Hunger food packing event to be held on Sunday, November 3 from 2-4 p.m. Mark your calendars for these important dates. Come join in the fun and "good food"!

REFRIGERATOR CLEAN OUT

The refrigerators and freezers will be cleaned the second week in March. Unidentified items left in the freezers and refrigerators will be disposed of.

Reminders for using these appliances.

- These appliances should be used for temporary storage.
- Please do not leave bags of ice in the freezers. They take up a lot of room and don't get used.
- Please mark items left in these appliances with the name of the group that used them. Often these items are forgotten. There have been several items that had to be thrown out because of spoilage. These included several gallons of milk, bottles of salad dressing, ice cream, juices, whipping cream and numerous others. It would be better if these items would be given away.

Contact Cathy Kaufmann at 540 371-1810 if you have questions. Thank you for your help in keeping these appliances available for use.

RED CROSS BLOOD MOBILE

The Red Cross Blood Mobile is coming to St. Matthias Sunday, March 24 from 8 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. To register online, go to redcross.org to choose a time before or after services that day. This is a crucial time of year for blood donations and your support will make a life-saving difference.

STATE OF THE CHURCH: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Bishop Sharma Lewis will hold an address titled “State of the Church: Where do we go from here?” on Monday, March 4, following the Special Session of General Conference. The event will be livestreamed at [www.livestream.com/vaumc/stateofthechurch from 10 a.m.](http://www.livestream.com/vaumc/stateofthechurchfrom10am) to 11:30 a.m. featuring an address by Bishop Lewis as well as time for questions and answers. The event footage will be archived at the same link for later viewing. Questions for this Q & A period may be sent to wayforward@vaumc.org prior to the event and during the event. If you have questions about the event, email Rev. Marc Brown at MarcBrown@vaumc.org.

POST GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETINGS

POST GENERAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

Several Post General Conference meetings have been scheduled. Current District Superintendent, Dr. Ted Smith, will be giving an overview of events from the General Conference. All are welcome to attend.

- Thursday, February 28 Tabernacle UMC, Fredericksburg @ 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 2 Trinity Catlett UMC @ 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, March 2 Warsaw UMC @ 4:00 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 31, 2019, we spent 9.3% of our operating budget of \$333,902, which is the same amount as the 2018 budget. It will be used until we have an approved budget for this year.

Revenues totaled \$21,252.53 in unrestricted weekly and online giving; expenses totaled \$23,773.43, leaving a net loss of \$2,521.90. The church was closed due to snow, leaving only three Sundays in the month to collect offerings.

The January bank statement had a beginning balance of \$66,590.93 and an ending balance of \$53,321.12. This included \$23,027.99 in deposits and \$37,297.80 in cleared checks. With \$7,828.47 in uncleared checks, the QuickBooks register balance was \$44,492.65. Of that amount, \$23,373.13 are monies earmarked for various Special Designated Accounts, leaving \$21,119.52 in the general operating account.

The Board of Trustees had a total of \$118,296.92 in several accounts, including a capital equipment replacement fund, several CDs and money market accounts.

On March 10th at 6pm in the fellowship hall, we’ll hold a Holy Conversation About Finance, our second financial information session. We’ll discuss the financial status of the church and present the approved budget for 2019.

Our monthly meetings are open to all on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm in room 10.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or text Sandy Rawlins at 540 840-3776.



The Honduras Mission team is selling t-shirts to raise money to purchase medical supplies for their trip June 30-July 6, 2019. Shirts will be imprinted on front and back. Cost is \$12 for sizes Adult Small through XL; \$15 for 2XL and larger. Please pre-order your shirt on the sign-up sheet on the Narthex Bulletin Board. Shirts will be delivered around the 1st of May. Payment is due when you receive your shirt.

Mission Committee – Month of March

God is so good! Our church has been so blessed to be a giving and loving congregation. Please continue to pray for your Mission Committee members and Mission area leaders as well as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

- New Bern, NC Mission Trip – Our energetic team of handy men and women will travel to New Bern, NC with our brothers and sisters from Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church on March 10-16, 2019 to assist with home repair after the severe flooding during Hurricane Florence in 2018. Please pray for their safety and stamina! **Mission Leader:** Peg Jones
- Thurman Brisben Center – Our youth will be preparing and serving the Sunday meal on March 17. **Mission Leader:** Brenda Wood
- Beef Stew and Biscuits – March 31 at 12:15 p.m. Proceeds from the meal will go towards Rise Against Hunger. We will also say “Good bye and God Bless” to our Honduras Missionary, Betsy Giannuzzi. This will be her last day at church as she begins her mission work on April 2 (which is also her birthday). **Mission Leader:** Carole Hall
- Lenten Devotionals – The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) Lenten Devotionals and Good Friday Fast Booklets will be available for your Lenten prayer and study. Envelopes will also be available for your donations to SoSA during Lent. **Mission Chair:** Tammi Ellis
- Food Pantry – Thank you for your monetary and food donations to our Pantry. There is an ongoing need to for canned chicken and tuna, cereal, soup, pasta, clothing detergent, dish soap, tooth brushes and tooth paste, canned fruit and vegetables, beef stew, and taco kits. **Mission Leader:** Karen Breggenti
- Mission Committee Meeting - Our next Mission Meeting will be on Saturday, March 30 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 10. All those called to mission are invited to attend. **Mission Chair:** Tammi Ellis

MARCH 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7:00 PLAM 7:00 a.m. Emmaus Training 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer
3 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice 5:45 p.m. Evening Worship	4 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 11:30 a.m. Truth Project Study 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	5 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 5:30 p.m. Pancakes & Painting 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	6 10:00 a.m. Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. G.S. 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	7 6:30 a.m. Micah Breakfast 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Trustees	8	9 7:00 PLAM 7:00 a.m. Emmaus Training 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Awards
10 Girl Scout Sunday NC Mission Trip 12:15 p.m. Potato Bar 5:00 Praise Band Practice 6:30 p.m. Holy Conversation about Finances	11 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 11:30 a.m. Truth Project Study 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	12 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	13 10:00 a.m. UMW Meeting 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 p.m. Finance	14 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 p.m. Worship	15 Love & Laundry 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	16 7:00 PLAM 7:00 a.m. Emmaus Training 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer
17 7:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast 9:45 a.m. 3rd Sunday Fellowship 3:30 p.m. Thurman Brisben 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice 5:45 p.m. Evening Worship 6:30 SPRC	18 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 11:30 a.m. Truth Project Study 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	19 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	20 10:00 a.m. UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	21 11:00 Retired Teacher's Luncheon 6:00 p.m. UR 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Al Anon	22	23 7:00 PLAM 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer
24 9-1:00 Blood Drive 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	25 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 11:30 a.m. Truth Project Study 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	26 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	27 10:00 a.m. UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	28 6:00 p.m. UR 6:45 p.m. Girl Scout Svc. Mtg. 7:00 Al Anon	29	30 10:00 a.m. Mission Meeting

31

12:30 p.m. Beef Stew & Biscuits
1:00 p.m. Honduras Team Meeting
5:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 3 Bryce Barnes
- 6 Judy Harford
- 6 Wanda Short
- 7 Shirley Glover
- 7 Gordon Payne
- 8 Justin Reichard
- 8 Madelyn Wetzel
- 9 Norma Polley
- 9 Sandy Rawlins
- 10 Sherry King
- 11 Jennifer Belako
- 15 Logan Hayes
- 17 Sabrina Rippey
- 21 Brandon Bailey
- 26 Jim Davis
- 27 Karen Main
- 27 Jacob Nedza

New Staff for St Matthias

The SPPRC takes great pleasure in introducing our two newest staff members, Natalie McKinney and Sharon Stoeckel. They will be "job sharing" the position of Assistant Nursery Caregiver to nurture and love our precious children. Sharon has been filling in for us for many years and Natalie just recently, so they are familiar and loved by the children already. They both come highly recommended by individuals in the Stafford and King George County school systems and share a love of children of all ages and challenges. We are excited and looking forward to working with these two faith-filled women for many years. Please stop by the nursery on a Sunday morning after services to say, "Welcome."

The Walk to Emmaus celebrates 40 years of ministry. More than a million people have encountered Christ and agape love through Walk to Emmaus, a three-day retreat created to empower pilgrims to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. This vital source of spiritual renewal and leadership development is available throughout the U.S. and in over 40 countries. Locally, the next walks are 3/21-24/19 for men and 4/4-7/19 for women. Several SMUMC people are involved, including our own Matt McBride who will serve as the lay director for the men's walk. Learn more at emmaus.upperroom.org.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 2 Allen & Betty Gardner
- 4 Colin & Kerry Meyer
- 23 Rich & Cathy Kaufmann
- 27 Jim & Earline Haney



Thank you, St. Matthias family, for your continued support of Love and Laundry! What a channel for blessings this ministry is (see bulletin board for latest "stats")! Even though the donation "bucket" is now in the missions hallway, we still need your quarters, dollars, checks and PRAYERS to be able to help the blessings flow at the Laundry Basket one afternoon a month!



St. Matthias United Methodist Church

426 Deacon Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22405



St. Matthias United Methodist Church

Called to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

Worship:

Sundays: 8:45 & 11:00 | Nursery for infants to 5 yrs
Kids Own Worship (pre -5th grade): 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship: 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 5:45 p.m.

Pastor:

Rev. Bert Cloud

540-736-7007 (voice & text) | pastorbert@stmatthiasumc.org

Office:

Ms. Susan Courtney

(540) 373-8759 | office@stmatthiasumc.org

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Find us:

Visit us online at stmatthiasumc.org and on facebook

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