

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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March 19, 2023
Vol. 50 No. 12

Upcoming Congregational Meeting



The Church Council has decided to call a Congregational Meeting for **Sunday, March 26** to consider our next steps as a congregation.

We will have a 10 a.m. Combined Worship Service followed by an 11 a.m. Congregational Meeting. The Church Council has proposed a formal vote on whether or not to join the Global Methodist Church.

The Global Methodist Church: What They Believe



What we believe matters. Before we join any new denomination, we need to know what it is they say they believe. How do they view the Bible? What are their theological convictions? What are their core beliefs?

The Bible: The Global Methodist Church believes that the Bible, both Old and New Testament, is the inspired, authoritative Word of God. It is revelation from God to us, not merely a human book about God. As a result, the Bible contains everything necessary for salvation. Nothing more is to be added to it, and nothing should be taken from it. We use tradition to help us understand the Bible better, not to circumvent or change what the Bible clearly teaches.

Consequently, the Bible is the binding rule and guide for our faith and practice. That is, what we believe as Christians and how we live out our faith is measured by what the Bible teaches. That's what we mean when we talk about the "canon" of Scripture. The Bible is the standard, and our lives are measured by that standard.

The Creeds: In the early church, they formulated what we call "creeds" as a summary of what the Bible teaches as necessary for salvation. The Global Methodist Church joins with all faithful, orthodox Christians in affirming the traditional ecumenical creeds: The Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed (381 A.D.), and the Definition of Chalcedon (451 A.D.).

Each of these creeds sums up core beliefs about God and salvation. And traditionally, any church or denomination that doesn't affirm these creeds and what they teach is considered less than fully Christian.

So, each of these creeds affirms things like: the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, the Divinity of Christ, Jesus' Atoning Sacrifice on the Cross, the Forgiveness of Sin, the Resurrection from the Dead, Judgment of the Living and the Dead, and the promise of Eternal Life. There is more that could be added, but these are a few of the essentials of the Christian faith.

Wesleyan: While the Bible is always primary and has final authority on all things, the Global Methodist Church also holds to the teachings of John Wesley and the early Methodists. That is, they interpret the Bible through the lens and tradition of John Wesley's teaching.

So, they believe that because of original sin, every human being is eternally lost apart from God. And yet, God in His grace has empowered our human free will enough to hear the gospel of God's salvation in Jesus and to respond to that gospel and give our hearts to God.

In fact, John Wesley taught that there were at least four different experiences of God's grace. There is **Prevenient Grace** in which the Holy Spirit seeks to draw every lost sinner to Jesus' saving grace on the Cross. It is the grace that comes before salvation and leads us to salvation. There is **Convincing Grace**, or what we might call "conviction." The Holy Spirit convicts our heart of sin and causes us to repent and pray for forgiveness.

And as a result, true repentance leads to **Justifying Grace**, in which God forgives our sin, washes us clean, and makes us a new creation in Christ. This is conversion. At that moment, we also receive a beginning of God's **Sanctifying Grace** when the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts and we are born again of the Spirit of God. But, that leads to a growing in grace that should culminate in our Sanctification, or what John Wesley called **Perfect Love**.

Again, there is so much more that could be said about all of these things. But, this is a short summary of the doctrines of the Global Methodist Church. Mind you, the United Methodist Church affirms all of these doctrines as well, but the problem is that they often ignore them. Doctrine does no good if we don't use it. The goal of the Global Methodist Church is to actually live what we say we believe, because in the end: **What We Believe Matters**.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
9:50 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship
6:00 p.m. Bro. Lauren's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Solid Ground Youth

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

6:00 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

4:30 p.m. Ladies Handbell Choir
5:15 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
6:00 p.m. Bro. Lauren's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Snack Supper
6:00 p.m. Youth

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

9-12 noon Methodist Market



March

Birthdays & Anniversaries

20. Jane Glenn

23. Terry Layne Tenhet

Sharing the load

In 1969 the Hollies released "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother." Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan's Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, "He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother." Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been "carried" at some point, and we've likely "carried" someone else. The Hollies' song declares: "His welfare is my concern." Jesus said it this way: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The load isn't too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us. --copied



Sunday, March 12, 2023, **Campbell Todd Burnham** and **Hamilton Truett Burnham**, infant sons of Sammy and Claire Burnham were baptized at the 9:00 a.m. service.

How Jesus Says Your Name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Hiskidz and Bible in Life

Last Sunday we completed our series *What Jesus Said*. This week we will begin a brand-new series for the month of March. The series is called, *The Final Days of Jesus*. The lessons will prepare us for the Easter season. The lesson this Sunday will come from the book of Mark.

W.O.W. Wednesday

W.O.W. Wednesday meets this week and begins a new series. Our new study will be The Ten Commandments.

"The Ten Commandments" are the heart of the Old Testament and are the core expression of God's rules for his people. Christians have always looked to the commandments as simple directions for life and worship as the basis of right living. In this series, children will learn that God's rules show us our need for Christ and how we can express his love in how we live. Last week first lesson we learned **Commandment 1 - Put God First!** Next week we will begin with **Commandment 2 - NO IDOLS!**



Confirmation

We want to thank **Mary Lou and Owen Richards** for graciously offering their cabin for our Confirmation Retreat that was held Thursday, March 9- Friday, March 10. We had a very engaging and informative time together, and we will be welcoming new our Confirmands into the congregation within the coming months.



Youth Sunday School

As we begin our new series, *The Final Days of Jesus*, we will be discussing the final days in the life of Christ as we prepare for the Easter season.

Youth Bible Study and Small Group

Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group has picked back up with Bible Study at 6:00 p.m. We have been tackling multiple topics on the World's agenda, and what the world is pushing towards us and what the world wants to see pushed out of our lives. It is so important for the youth of this world to not be afraid to stand up and proclaim the name of Jesus.

KAIROS

If you would like to attend the closing for Women's Kairos #45 on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 2:15, please contact Allison Hughes at 662-571-4964.

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Greeter	Sandra Martin/Ardis Russell
Scripture	Luke 9:28-36
Sermon	A Glimpse of Glory
Flowers	Linda and Edwin McDonald

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MARCH

19. 4th Sunday in Lent	John 3:14-21
20. God Sales the repentant	Psalm 107:10-16
21. Pursue peace	Psalm 34:9-14
22. Is there no healing?	Jeremiah 8:18-22
23. An answer to sin	Numbers 21:4-9
24. With songs of joy	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
25. The gift of God	Ephesians 2:1-10