

## Did the United Methodist Church Just Agree to Split Up?

If you were watching the news over the weekend, you may have been surprised to find various reports that the United Methodist Church has agreed to split up the denomination. I certainly was! The news came from such trusted sources as CNN, Fox News, the New York Times, and even Christianity Today. So, clearly, there must be something to it.

So, did the UMC just agree to split up? The short answer is: **No.**

So, what did happen? On Friday, January 3, the Council of Bishops shared a press release with the media presenting a proposed plan of separation for the denomination. The plan was the product of a 16-member group of key United Methodist bishops and leaders from various advocacy groups across the theological spectrum. They met together from October through December 2019 under the guidance of attorney Kenneth Feinberg, a nationally-renowned mediator. This plan is the result of their mediated negotiations.

It is important to note that this is **just a proposal**. It is not actually a “done deal.” Nothing has actually happened yet. Only the General Conference can vote to approve a plan of separation for the United Methodist Church. And that hasn’t happened yet.

The General Conference will meet May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 862 delegates will come from all over the world to decide all matters of legislation that eventually become our Book of Discipline. This proposed plan is just one of nearly a dozen plans of separation that will be considered by the delegates.

Why do we need to consider a plan of separation? For over forty years there has been a growing theological divide in the United Methodist Church. The presenting issue is human sexuality. But, the real issue is our deeper understanding of Scripture and the Christian faith. Some want to modernize the church to affirm same-sex marriage and ordain practicing homosexuals as pastors. Others want to hold to the traditional and historic understanding of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.

Continued

# JANUARY

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

- 9:00 a.m. Come AZ U R Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
- 5:00 p.m. Planet 456
- 6:00 p.m. Snack Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Youth

## MONDAY, JANUARY 13

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market
- 6:30 p.m. Prison Bible Study

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

- 6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study/Millie's

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

- 3-4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 5:30 p.m. In the Hands of God/Prayer Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Small Group

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



- 12. Kirk Coulton, Bobby Thompson
- 13. Tim Richards
- 14. Jamie Patterson
- 16. Claire Burnham
- 17. Lauren Porter
- 18. Joy Boyd

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- 10. Dr. & Mrs. David Arnold
- 18. Mr. & Mrs. Irma Newell Hart

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In the light of the 2019 General Conference, it has become clear that those who wish to modernize the church's teachings will not abide by the Book of Discipline and many of our bishops refuse to enforce church doctrine. As a result, something has to give. Many leaders of the church feel that the time has come for an amicable separation of the United Methodist Church.

This does not mean that the General Conference will approve one of these plans. While they will give each plan serious consideration, they could very possibly decide to vote against all of them, leaving the church just as it is. No one can predict the outcome.

In the meantime, the best thing we can do is to pray for the delegates to the General Conference, that God would give them wisdom and discernment for the best course of action.

*Brother Lauren*



*Congratulations to Frank and Dee Webb on the birth of their grandson, Henry Wilson Rush, who was born December 19, 2019 to Logan and Anne Webb Rush.*



*Penny Jackson*

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Simmons

*Becky Jones*

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Simmons

*Marvin Terrell*

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Trammell



## **Solid Ground Youth**

This week in Sunday School, we will continue with our Fathom Series, *The Broken Kingdom*. We will take a look at the story of Israel's fall and eventual exile. Throughout this study, we will learn about the consequences of failing to trust in God as well as His redemption, even in the worst of circumstances.

## **Sunday Night Youth**

This Sunday night we will begin a new Bible study called, *The Twelve Outlaws*. This study will help us take a closer look at Jesus' apostles. Why were these apostles "WANTED" by Christ? We will take a look at each disciple's background, how we can relate to each one of them through their character, and how these men lived by the law of the land and learned through Christ to live by the law of God.

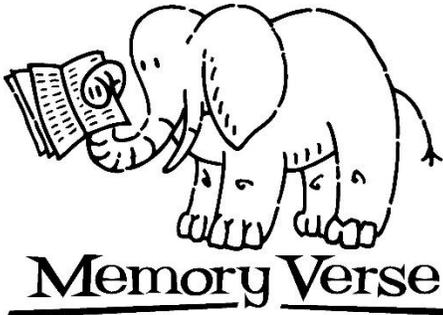
## **Wednesday Night Small Group**

Wednesday night small group has picked back up. We will continue with the Study we began last week, *What Do You Allow to Define You?* This 6-week study will take on a journey to understand who we are. The first two weeks we will begin with noting our attributes, the positive ones, as well as the negative ones. Each week we will dig a little deeper into who we are, how others see us, and how God sees us.

## **Spring Break Trip**

The Youth Spring Break trip to Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg is fast approaching, and it will be here soon. If you signed up for the trip, please make sure you are keeping up with all the information being sent out. More detailed information pertaining to the trip will be sent out to parents within the week.

# Children's Page



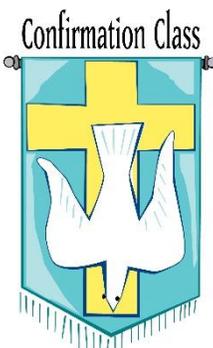
“So, they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives.”

Mark 6:12



In Sunday school this week, we will learn about Jesus bringing the Good News from the book of Isaiah. This story follows after Jesus had been baptized and spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted. On Sunday, we will talk about what this particular story from the Bible means.

Planet 456 Bible study will begin this Sunday night at 5:00 p.m. We will begin a new study, *Defined, Who God Says You Are*. This study is an 8-week Bible study guiding kids to find their identity in Christ, based on selected passages from Ephesians. This study is by the Kendrick Brothers, the authors of the film *Overcomer*.



class.

## Confirmation

Confirmation classes for our 6<sup>th</sup> graders will begin on Wednesday, January 15 and continue every Wednesday through February 12<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the church from 3:00 - 4:30p.m. Information will be sent out to the parents. Please make every effort to have your child here for each

## **Volunteers serving Sunday, January 12, 2020**

|           |                                         |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|
| Greeters  | Jim & Dixie Roberts/Howard & Vicky Webb |
| Acolytes  | Maddie Canard & Myla Wallace            |
| Scripture | Romans 10:8-15                          |
| Sermon    | <b>“The World Is My Parish”</b>         |

## **Attendance, January 5, 2020**

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Worship Services | 176 |
| Sunday School    | 113 |

## **Daily Bible Readings**

### **JANUARY**

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>12. King forever!</b>            | <b>Psalm 29</b>        |
| 13. Your servant is listening       | 1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20) |
| 14. I am still with you             | Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18   |
| 15. Glorify God in your body        | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  |
| 16. My God will hear                | Micah 7:1-7            |
| 17. All the nations shall serve Him | Jeremiah 27:1-13       |
| 18. My spirit rejoices              | Luke 1:46-55           |