

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Comparing Our Options

Where do we go? And what are our options? Those are the two key questions we have to consider over the next few weeks. After our Church Conference vote on January 11 to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church, we now have to decide where we go next. Do we become a fully independent church connected to no one? Or do we join another denomination? And if we so, which one?

At our congregational meeting on February 12, Lee Ann Williamson shared with us about one of those options: the Global Methodist Church. Personally, I believe it may be our best option, but there are other denominations to consider.

For instance, among the evangelical denominations with Wesleyan/Methodist theology, there are the Free Methodist Church, the Wesleyan Church, the Nazarene Church, and the Congregational Methodist Church. There are certainly others, but these are among the four largest Methodist denominations. So, how do they compare? What are their differences?

Trust Clause:

Both the Wesleyan and the Nazarene Churches have a trust clause like the UMC. The Free Methodist Church has a trust clause, too. But, they are saying that for any churches that transfer in, the trust clause will not apply to any property they already had, but will apply to any property they may later acquire. So, if you buy a second parsonage at some point, the trust clause applies to that land and would function much like the United Methodist trust clause.

Neither the Congregational Methodist nor the Global Methodist Churches have a trust clause. In those denominations each church owns its own property outright. As a result, they can leave the denomination by a simple congregational vote.

Bishops:

The Global Methodist Church has bishops, but with limited power and term limits (likely a 12-year limit). When they retire, they go back to being a pastor.

The Free Methodists have bishops that are elected to 4-year terms and can then be re-elected. The Nazarenes have six General Superintendents that serve for re-electable 4-year terms. The Wesleyans have one General Superintendent over the church who serves for re-electable 4-year terms. And the Congregational Methodists have an elected president with minimal authority.

Doctrine:

The Free Methodist, Wesleyan, Nazarene, and Congregational Methodist Churches are all conservative, evangelical denominations that are deeply rooted in Wesleyan-Arminian theology. That is, they are tied to John Wesley's Methodist interpretation of Scripture.

They are all also a part of what is called the Holiness Movement. That is, they have a strong belief in the biblical doctrine of Entire Sanctification, the belief that God can free us from the power of sin as well as from the guilt of sin by a second work of grace.

The Global Methodist Church is conservative and evangelical as well, but in a way that is very reminiscent of the best of United Methodist theology since it is made up of mostly traditional former United Methodists.

Clergy Appointment:

The Wesleyan, Nazarene, and Congregational Methodist Churches all use a congregational call system. So, picture Southern Baptist pulpit search committees, but for Methodists.

The Free Methodist Church uses a Ministerial Appointments committee chaired by the bishop to assign pastors. Churches have significant input into the appointment, and the pastor serves until a change is requested by the local church or the pastor.

The Global Methodist Church has proposed a hybrid-appointment system where the bishop and the congregation work together to interview pastoral candidates. When the pastor, church, and bishop all agree to the match, that's the appointment. Like the Free Methodist, the pastor serves until a change is requested by the local church or the pastor.

Apportionments:

The Free Methodists are 10-13% of the previous year's local church income. The Wesleyans are 11% of local church income. The Nazarenes are 15% of local church income, but that also includes the pastor's pension. The Congregational Methodists give whatever each church decides.

The Global Methodist Church has a max of 6.5% of the local church's operating income. That's a total of 1.5% to the general church, and 5% to the annual conference. During the interim period, it is capped at 2% total until a Provisional Annual Conference has formed. By comparison, the UMC in Mississippi is generally 15%.

There's more that could be said, but hopefully this gives you an overview of the differences among various Wesleyan/Methodist churches.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 6:00 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

- 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 4

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



- 26. Wanda Simmons
- 2. Lois Russell
Will Skinner Allen
- 4. Jimmy Whitaker
Andy Bardwell

- 27. Mr. & Mrs. Denson Thomas
- 4. Mr. & Mrs. Albert Vandevere



Another Focus For Lent

- Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments—think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry—trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement—be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred—return good for evil.
- Give up anger—be more patient.
- Give up pettiness—become mature.
- Give up jealousy—pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping—control your tongue.
- Give up sin—turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up—persevere.

--Author unknown



Thanks so much to the Family Ministries Committee for sponsoring another great night of Pot Luck and games. It was such fun!



Hiskidz and Bible in Life

This Sunday is our last lesson for February. We will complete the series, ***What Jesus Said***. This week our lesson is called "How to Treat Others."

This lesson is centered on the Golden Rule. This seems like such a simple command because we all want to be treated nicely. However, how often do we hold grudges, refuse to forgive, ignore others, and act in so many other ways that we would not want to be treated? Jesus wants us to love one another.

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 our first lesson was called ***Love Rules***. Next week we will begin with ***Commandment 1 - Put God First!***



Youth Sunday School

This Sunday in our lesson, "The God Squad," we will discuss the importance of feeling accepted and belonging to something. Being left out or excluded is something we all have experienced at some point and time. However, Jesus never excludes. He wants you and seeks to have a relationship with you.

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. We have also been discussing the "WAVE OF WORSHIP" – that began through a Chapel service at Asbury. It is so important for the youth of this world to not be afraid to stand up and proclaim the name of Jesus.

Spring Break Trip:

If your youth is interested in the Spring Break trip planned for March 13-16, please respond to the information that has been sent out.



WELCOME

New Members

We welcome as new members to our congregation Claude and Alison Martien and their children ClairBeth and LynnLee. They come to us from North Monroe Baptist Church.

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Greeters	Diane Vaughan/Molly & Bill McNair
Scripture	Luke 5:17-26
Sermon	“The Greater Miracle”
Flowers	Pat & Charles Davis

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

FEBRUARY

26. 1st Sunday in Lent

27. His face was shining
28. The fullness of God
 1. That all should turn
 2. God’s everlasting covenant
 3. Lead me in your truth
 4. Alive in the Spirit

Matthew 4:1-11

- Exodus 34:29-35
Colossians 1:15-20
Ezekiel 33:10-11
Genesis 9:8-11
Psalm 25: 1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22