

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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What Happened at General Conference 2019?

After three years of buildup and intense speculation, the special Called General Conference finally met and completed its work last Tuesday, February 26, in St. Louis, Missouri. So what happened?

After much debate, the 864 delegates voted on each of the three main plans brought before it. The Connectional Conference Plan, which would have divided the United Methodist Church into three smaller branches within the larger church, did not get enough votes to even get out of legislative subcommittee. So, it was never fully considered.

The One Church Plan, which would have changed the definition of marriage to allow for same-sex marriage and would have allowed for ordination of open, practicing homosexuals as pastors, was voted against. The final vote was 449 (55%) ‘no’ to 374 (45%) ‘yes.’

The Traditional Plan, which would maintain the current language of the Book of Discipline and strengthen accountability measures for bishops and pastors who choose to disobey church law, passed by a close margin. The final vote was 438 (53%) ‘yes’ to 384 (47%) ‘no.’

What does this mean? It means that the United Methodist Book of Discipline will continue to say that while we love and value all people, the “practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in the United Methodist Church” (§ 304.3 Book of Discipline 2016). Likewise, pastors are still not permitted to preside over same-sex ceremonies (§ 341.6).

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Don't forget to move your clocks FORWARD at bedtime Saturday night ONE HOUR as Daylight Saving time begins Sunday, March 10.

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

- 9:00 a.m. Come AZ U R Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
- Youth to movie

MONDAY, MARCH 11

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

- 5:30 p.m. In the Hands of God/Prayer Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

- 12. Freda Edwards
- 14. Garret McClellan
- 15. Melissa Gooch, Malinda Thompson
- 16. Margaret Phillips, Julia Thompson

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- 12. Mr. & Mrs. Benny Melton
- 14. Mr. & Mrs. Larry Adams



Solid Ground Youth

This week we will continue our new lesson series on Old Testament Heroes – Women. This Sunday we will talk about Rahab. Rahab had real struggles and issues, but God used her. God can and will use us for His purpose. Look at all the people throughout the Bible that he used. They were all flawed, just as we are.

Sunday Night Youth

This Sunday we will be going to Madison to see the movie “Run the Race.” Please bring \$10 for the movie and extra money for a meal. I will send out information regarding the time we will meet at the church, as well as the movie time. We will meet back with Bible study next Sunday, March 17 at our normal time.

Wednesday Night Small Group

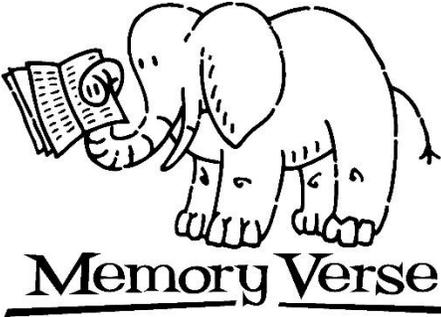
Wednesday night small group will **NOT** meet on Wednesday, March 13, as the youth will be on a Spring Break trip. We will be visiting The Ark Encounter on Wednesday and we are excited to see this amazing sight that will take us back to the day of Noah. Bible study will resume back to our regular schedule on March 20.

Spring Break Trip



This Tuesday several of our youth will be traveling to Kentucky to experience The Ark Encounter. After viewing this awesome replica, we will continue our trip by traveling to Newport, Kentucky, which is across the Ohio River from Cincinnati. We will take in the Cincinnati Zoo, The Newport Aquarium, and finish off the trip with some sight-seeing and a hockey game. We are looking forward to this time of fellowship together and would appreciate your prayers for safety and traveling mercies. We will be returning home on Saturday, March 16.

Children's Page



"Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom!
Change your hearts and lives and trust this
good news!"

Mark 1:15



The Sunday school lesson this week is another parable that Jesus told, and it is one that we all relate to in some way. This is the parable of the Lost Son or the Forgiving Father. There are three main characters in this story and we will be talking about how we are like all of them.



Bible study will **NOT** meet this week because of Spring Break beginning. Please have a safe and enjoyable Spring Break and enjoy spending time with your family and friends. We will meet back on Sunday, March 17 at our regular time.



Volunteers serving Sunday, March 10, 2019

Greeters	Jim & Dixie Roberts/Michael George
Acolytes	Caroline Swafford & Kendall Swoope
Scripture	Matthew 18:7-9
Sermon	“Prune for Growth”
Security	Jo Ed Woodard/Michael George
Flowers	Irma Newell & Nancy Hart

Attendance, March 3, 2019

Worship Services	165
Sunday School	105

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MARCH

10. 1st Sunday in Lent	Matthew 4:1-11
11. Great beyond all understanding	Isaiah 41:21-28
12. The first of his signs	John 2:1-11
13. The man believed	John 4:46-54
14. God promises renewal	Ezekiel 37:1-14
15. Great power to redeem	Psalms 130
16. Choosing life and peace	Romans 8:6-11

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So, for us here in Yazoo City, it means that nothing really changes. We still hold to what the Bible teaches as true, and we still love all people and want to share with everyone the life-changing truth of God's amazing grace through the Cross of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

One of the big takeaways from General Conference 2019 is that we are quickly becoming a global church. Over 30% of the delegates were from African conferences, places like East Congo and North Katanga. And you could see their influence from their speeches and their votes at this conference. They were strong advocates for the Traditional Plan that passed.

What's more, this influence will only grow as we move toward our next regularly-scheduled General Conference in May 2020. That Conference will have 862 delegates worldwide. The U.S. will have 22 fewer delegates in 2020, while Africa will gain 18 more and the Philippines will gain 2 more. Those two regions of the UMC will account for over 38% of voting delegates.

There are changes coming for the United Methodist Church, but it's not likely to be our doctrine on marriage and human sexuality. It's more likely to be our transition to a truly global church that focuses less on the U.S. and more on Africa and the Philippines.

Brother Lauren

Women's Kairos #42

The forty second women's Kairos will be April 2-5 at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility. The purpose of this ministry is to establish a Christian community inside the prison through the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus.

If you would would like to make a financial contribution to this ministry, please contact Allison Hughes. (571-4964) Checks can be made to "Kairos of Mississippi".