

First United Methodist Church
448 N. Kansas St.
Superior, NE 68978-1851

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Whats Up at **FUMC?**

- Natalie's Notes
- Reports
- Calendars
- Announcements



General Conference 2019

I once again apologize for the lateness of the March Newsletter, but found it important to wait in order to include the results of the General Conference held the last week in February.

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church – a legislative body of 864 people from around the world – voted during a special session of General Conference to uphold the current Book of Discipline, our denomination's book of law and polity, regarding the prohibition of same-gender weddings and ordination of LGBTQ persons. Some people celebrated this decision while others experienced immense pain.

Though maybe most of our congregation may agree with this decision, it's important to remember that this decision was harmful to our LGBTQ sisters and brothers, their parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and friends. It's important to note that The United Methodist Church is a global denomination. So while this issue may be playing out right now in the United

States, the delegates who vote these matters are clergy and laity not only from the U.S. but also Southeast Asia, Africa, Europe and Russia. In some of those places, homosexuality is illegal, punishable by fines, time in prison, or even death. Those factors play a role, of course along with interpretations of scriptures, as votes are cast.

In the United States, some people take a literal interpretation of scripture just as some people see the Bible as the inspired word of God with many nuances that must be interpreted based on changes in society. United Methodists in the Great Plains Conference are no different.

Many congregations of The United Methodist Church have been and will continue to be fully welcoming to LGBTQ persons. In fact, all people are welcome to worship, take part in the sacraments of baptism and communion, and serve in non-ordained leadership roles at all levels of the local church. None of those aspects of church life changed with the special session of General Conference.

(Continued on next page)

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First United Methodist Church in Superior is committed to continuing the work to make a lasting impact in our community. We will continue to talk about God's love for all people and of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for all people. As we affirm the General Conference outcome, will continue to be there for the people of our community, support, lift up and encourage our youth, ring our bells in joyful noise, and care for those that are unable to come to church by visiting them.

This matter remains to be settled because of questions related to constitutionality of the Traditional Plan and resolve from people seeking full inclusion. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are called to relationship within our diversity. It is neither that we are indifferent toward truth nor tolerant of error. We approach our work with humility, aware that none of us is able to search the mysteries of God except by the Spirit of God. We proceed in mission together in continued prayer for discernment, in the building of new relationships and trusting that the Spirit will grant us wisdom to continue our journey with the whole people of God.

I pray that as we continue to move forward as a congregation, you will

be mindful that many are impacted by this decision in many different ways. I, personally, grieve that so many of the people I love and respect in ministry are in such pain from this decision. I call us to to love all people, regardless of their sexual orientation. All are welcome here. We want to welcome everyone into a relationship with God. I've written this before and will write it again. God calls us to love everyone. And to quote something I've read a lot in the last couple weeks, "God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it."

As always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come talk to me. I also have available fact sheets on exactly what was voted on if there is an interest.

Blessings and Love,

Pastor Natalie



An Opportunity of a Lifetime

The 2019 Mission Education Tour, or METour, is headed southeast this summer.

From June 1-11, young women ages 15-20 will travel from Topeka to the Sager Brown UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana; Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky; Upper Room in Nashville; Cookson Hills Center in Cookson, Oklahoma, and more.

The registration deadline is April 1 for a \$50 deposit, with the remaining \$400 balance due by May 15. If you are interested in going talk to Pastor Natalie as there are scholarships and financial assistance available. For more information about the METour please contact the METour director, Venedith Vargas, at metourdirector@yahoo.com or via phone at 308-352-8085.

More information is available through the MET page of the Great Plains website.

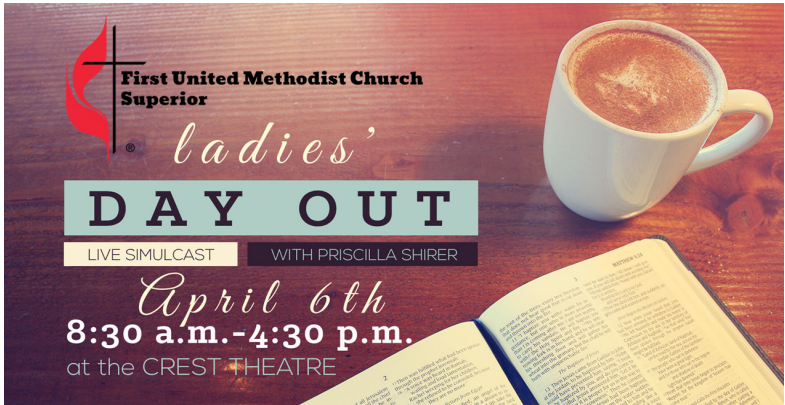


Happy Birthday

Tuesday, March 5: Sandy Borden
Thursday, March 7: Rhea Thomsen
Saturday March 9: Lindsay Hamilton & Twilla Frerichs
Tuesday, March 12: Marley Edwards & Matt Edwards
Wednesday, March 13: Jenny McCord
Thursday, March 14: Leo Zadina & Teegan Duncan
Saturday, March 16: Kim Eggers
Monday, March 18: Burkley Bouray
Wednesday, March 20: Alaina Brown & Dave Taylor
Thursday, March 21: Curt Drake & Mike Sibert
Tuesday, March 26: Elaine Guilkey
Wednesday, March 27: Darlene Hale

Anniversaries

Sunday, March 10: Dick & Claudia Hanson
Monday, March 11: Eldon & Carole Thompson
Wednesday March 13: Wayne & Joann Reed
Saturday, March 16: Jay & Kathleen Ross



Upcoming

Events

March Calendar

Saturday Mar. 2nd: Confirmation Rally @ McPherson, KS
Leave at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Mar. 6th: Ash Wednesday
Worship @ 5:30 p.m.
No Confirmation!
Monday Mar. 11th: Bingo @ Good Sam @ 2 p.m.
Wednesday Mar. 13th: No Confirmation!
Thursday Mar. 14th: Chapel @ Good Sam @ 10 a.m.
Chapel @ Kingswood @ 4 p.m.
Saturday Mar. 16th: Men's Breakfast @ Webber UMC @ 8 a.m.
Sunday Mar. 17th: Bellissimo Bell Choir @ 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday Mar. 19th: Memorial @ 5:05 p.m.
Trustees @ 5:30 p.m.
Finance @ 6:30 p.m..
Ad Co @ 7 p.m.
Wednesday Mar. 20th: UMW @ 7 p.m.

Weekly Groups

Sunday- Community Cantata Rehearsal @ 6 p.m.
Beginning Feb. 3rd.
Mondays- Forgiveness Lenten Study @ 1 or 6 p.m.
Yoga @ 7 p.m.
Wednesdays- Needle Huddle 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Confirmation 7:00 p.m. No Confirmation March 6th or 13th!!

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Dear Parents With Young Children in Church,

By Jamie Bruesehoff, Writer for Huffington Post- The Blog. 2013

You are doing something really, really important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you beg your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about bible study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to sit quietly and behave in worship. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his

communion wine out of the cup, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echoes of "Amen" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of those mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know it matters. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that their worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are enough right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines are a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family — with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy — are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

(Pastor Natalie's note: I read this recently and thought we all needed this reminder of the importance of all our young people in worship and we need to support and lift them up!)

United Methodist Women

On February 20, Superior UMW met in the fellowship hall. Esther Martin opened the meeting with recitation of our UMW Purpose by 8 members. Esther read a devotion from Hebrews 12:2. Minutes were read and approved. Sylvia Imhoff reported \$2979.93 in the treasury.

Committee Reports:

Elaine Guilkey reminded members to pass the Prayer Calendar and Program Book "Sisterhood of Grace" on to Member doing next month's program for use of these resources. She also reported there were no funeral dinners, and that Bingo at Good Sam was canceled due to weather.

Esther reported that she had been using material scraps to make child sized aprons to fill a need for helping preschoolers protect their clothing during art activities.

Avis Shaw reported that Valentine "Gifts of Love" had been delivered and cards sent to people in extended care facilities and those who are confined to their homes. They are always so grateful for the thought and enjoy the visits.

New Business:

Linda Cox reported the District UMW Spring Meeting will take place in Aurora, NE on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 9AM. Theme will be "Sisters United" and will have Updates from Big Garden and Camp Fontanelle. Program will be "Immigration 101". UMW will continue to Celebrate our 150th Birthday. Registration is \$8.00 and forms are due March 22, 2019. All District officer reports are available for members to read. The Mission Soup Supper will be February 26 from 5pm to 7pm at the FUMC Fellowship Hall. There will be a Free Will Donation.

Following the business meeting, Sue Rose and Jana Marr presented a thoughtful and entertaining program comparing each of us to a cup of coffee. Following this they served a delicious dessert, coffee, and "one to go". Next meeting will be March 20 at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Wilbern

March 2019 Worship Assistants

Greeters:

March 10: Alaina Brown
March 17: Margaret Breen
March 24: Carole Thompson
March 31: Sylvia Imhoff

Ushers:

March 10: Brown family
March 17: Tony Studer, Gail Breen, and Frank Langer
March 24: Eldon Thompson, Danny and Zak Corman
March 31: Joe Wilson, Phil Dean, and Jeff Guilkey

Counter all Month: Beverly Beavers

Sound Technicians:

March 10: Sandy Borden
March 17: Jeff Guilkey
March 24: Marsha Ray
March 31: Beverly Beavers

Communion Steward: Linda Cox

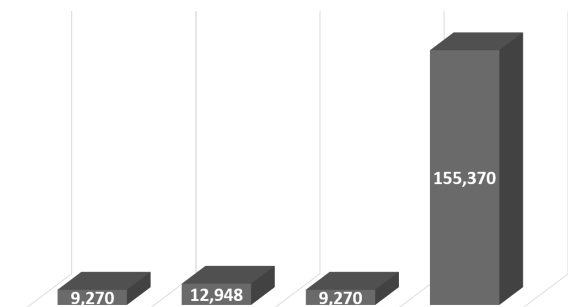
Acolytes:

March 10: Jocelyn Woerner
March 17: Lilly Edwards
March 24: Jordan Duncan
March 31: Cooper Ehlers

Sunday Funday Leaders

March 10: Leader: Shannon McCord, Helper: Karen Fox
March 17: Leader: Jana Marr, Helper: Mary Tietjen
March 24: Leader: Angela Garver, Helper: Jenny McCord
March 31: ?

MONTHLY OFFERING SNAPSHOT
FOR JANUARY 2019



Recently, our church received a scholarship request letter by one of our Superior High School Seniors. It reads as this:

To Whom it May Concern:

Currently, I am a Senior at Superior High School, Superior, Nebraska. I plan on majoring in Graphic Design at Friends University and possibly minoring in business. I have been an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Superior for the past six months as well as attending Church there for the past two years. I believe my church involvement with youth group and children's ministries there has helped to mold me into the person that I am today and inspired my goals for the future. My church family and my parents have taught me how to live a life for Christ.

Although I have a strong relationship with kids while working at a daycare and leading vacation bible school, I love looking into my future with graphic design. I have taken my gifts and donated my time to create a monthly newsletter for the church.

I have been heavily involved with our community by serving as a student ambassador to the Superior Chamber of Commerce, as well as being a part of clubs that serves the community in many ways.

At Friends University they offer a scholarship called a "Church Match Scholarship," up to \$500. If I receive a church scholarship of any amount, the school will also give me a scholarship to match that up to \$500. I would like to ask if the church would be willing to give me a scholarship. Anything would help greatly and I would appreciate it more than you know. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Blessings,

Jaimey L. Bryant

The Administrative Council decided that since this is not in our 2019 budget we would give the church an opportunity to give towards a scholarship to Jaimey

this year with a deadline of **May 1st**. We only have 2 seniors attending our church this year, the other being a foreign exchange student. However, next year we will have 6 students that belong to our church graduate. That's so awesome! We anticipate that in the coming years we may receive more scholarship requests so we would like to establish a Scholarship Committee in order to better address this need. If you are interested in being on such a committee and helping to create a Scholarship Application and requirements for us, please get in touch with Pastor Natalie as soon as possible. We would like to get something in place to present to Ad Council and Finance Committee before the 2020 budget is set in the fall.

