

May 2017

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Salem

United Methodist Church

Forecaster

A Special General Conference in 2019

This will likely be a difficult family reunion.

While Salem is a vibrant, fruitful, and growing congregation, our denomination, The United Methodist Church, is in many ways broken and struggling. Because of that, our Council of Bishops has just announced a special General Conference, February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis.

Normally, General Conference meets every four years, with the most recent one being last year. It is the only time The United Methodist Church gathers from across the globe in a single location, and it is the only body that can speak officially as The United Methodist Church.

Last year, by a vote of 428 to 405, General Conference decided not to take up any legislation related to homosexuality and instead authorized the bishops to form the Commission on a Way Forward. The vote came after rumors of a potential church split reached a fever pitch.

Therefore, the special meeting in 2019 of our denomination's top lawmaking assembly will be limited to acting on a report by the Council of Bishops, based on the proposals

from the Commission on the Way Forward. The 32-member commission, appointed by the bishops after last year's General Conference, has been tasked with finding ways for our denomination to stay together despite deep differences around homosexuality.

"The Council of Bishops encourages the entire church to continue in deep, unceasing prayer for Holy Spirit breakthroughs for the Commission on a Way Forward and the Special Session of General Conference," said Dakotas-Minnesota Area Bishop Bruce Ough, the president of the Council of Bishops, in a letter released Tuesday, April 25. See more at www.umc.org.



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The Future of The United Methodist Church



John Louk, Pastor

the struggle within United Methodism

While the Council of Bishops has just announced a special General Conference in February of 2019 to decide on the proposals from the Commission on the Way Forward, the Judicial Council is meeting in New Jersey this week.

The Judicial Council is The United Methodist Church's top court. Denominationally, we are structured much like the United States government. We have an executive branch (the Council of Bishops), a legislative branch (General Conference), and a judicial branch (the Judicial Council).

Furthermore, in our country, our Annual Conferences are grouped together regionally in Jurisdictions. Salem is part of the Iowa Annual Conference which, in turn, is part of the North Central Jurisdiction.

One of the items on the Judicial Council docket is the consideration of the Western Jurisdiction's election in July 2016 of Bishop Karen Oliveto, who is legally married to another woman. Our Book of Discipline bans same-sex weddings and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy.

So there was a request from the South Central Jurisdiction for a decision regarding her election since she claims to be a "self-avowed practicing homosexual" and is a spouse in a same-sex marriage.

Some hope that the Judicial Council will rule her election unconstitutional because of our clergy standards. Others hope her election will be ruled valid because she was in good standing in her Annual Conference. There may be a decision by the time you read this.

Our own episcopal leader, Bishop Laurie Haller, has asked us to pray. "No matter what the decision is, we will not all agree with each other. Some United Methodists will celebrate, but other faithful United Methodists will feel deep hurt and disenfranchisement. I am asking

all United Methodists in Iowa to be in deep prayer for Bishop Oliveto and United Methodists in the Mountain Sky Area as well as for the members of the Judicial Council."

In the meantime, a group of United Methodists has formed the Wesleyan Covenant Association, pastors, lay leaders, and congregations committed to the Wesleyan expression of orthodox Christianity. The WCA's intention is not to become a new denomination, hoping instead that our denomination can remain united. They are asking, though, whether we are truly united or if we are two churches pretending to live as one. The WCA has urged the Commission on the Way Forward to either find a way for United Methodists to live together with integrity and accountability or reach the conclusion that our differences are so deep that unity is no longer possible and prepare the church to split. Coincidentally, the WCA happens to be meeting this week while the Jurisdictional Council meets.

I have not spoken much at Salem about what is happening in our denomination. But I think it's important to let you know what's going on in the wider church, and Bishop Laurie is encouraging us to pray for the work of the Commission on the Way Forward.

There are many questions without answers, currently. Is it possible for The United Methodist Church to remain together, to be one Church, if we aren't of one mind regarding the authority and interpretation of scripture around human sexuality? If we can't remain together, how would we split apart? How would any of this affect Salem?

Please let me know if you would like more information or want to talk about this. And please pray for our Church.

Grace and peace to you,
John Louk

Worship Series for Easter — *The Great 50 Days*

In May we continue in the Easter Season, also known as The Great Fifty Days, which began at sunset Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost, June 4. It is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. The ancient Christian name for this festival is *Pasch*, derived from the Hebrew *pesah* ("deliverance" or "passover"), thus connecting the Resurrection to the Exodus. We burn the very tall Paschal candle throughout the Great Fifty Days of Easter as a symbol of the resurrection. The liturgical colors are white and gold. Come and worship!

May 7 **Fourth Sunday of Easter — The Great 50 Days**

Acts 2:42-47	Life Among the Believers
Psalms 23	The Lord Is My Shepherd
1 Peter 2:19-25	The Example of Christ's Suffering
John 10:1-10	Jesus the Good Shepherd
Holy Communion	

May 14 **Fifth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day) — The Great 50 Days**

Acts 7:55-60	The Stoning of Stephen
Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	Prayer for Deliverance
1 Peter 2:2-10	The Living Stone and a Chosen People
John 14:1-14	Jesus the Way to the Father

May 21 **Sixth Sunday of Easter — The Great 50 Days**

Acts 17:22-31	Paul in Athens
Psalms 66:8-20	Come and See What God Has Done
1 Peter 3:13-22	Be Ready to Account for the Hope Within You
John 14:15-21	The Promise of the Holy Spirit
Holy Communion	

May 28 **Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension Sunday) — The Great 50 Days**

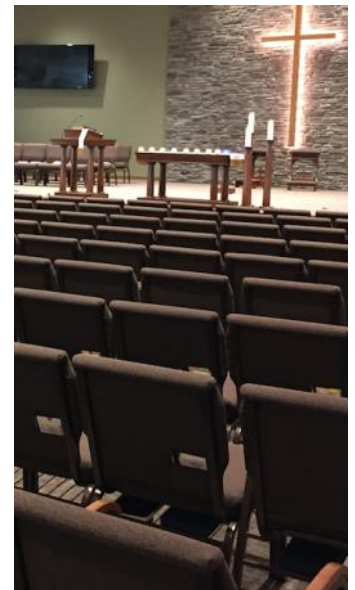
Acts 1:1-14	The Ascension of Jesus
Psalms 68:1-10	Praise to Him Who Rides upon the Clouds
Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's Prayer
John 17:1-11	Jesus Prays for His Disciples

Come and Worship!

Sundays

9 AM—Contemporary

11 AM—Traditional



May 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5 PM GriefShare	2 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Prayer Room 6:30 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	3 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 1 PM Mission Team 5 PM GriefShare	5 8:30 AM Foster Grandparent Program Meeting	6 8 AM UM Men's Breakfast
7 4th Sunday of Easter 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9 AM Lectionary Class 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Traditional Worship 12:30 PM Women's Care Group (Perkins SW)	8	9 6:30 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	10 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 5 PM Ministry Teams Leaders Meeting 6:15 PM Youth Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 9:30 AM UMW Sarah Circle 5:55 PM UMW Rachel Circle	12	13
14 5th Sunday of Easter 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9 AM Lectionary Class 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Traditional Worship 5 PM Salem Son Seekers	15 5 PM GriefShare <u>Forecaster articles due to Church Office</u>	16 9:30 AM Prayer Room 5:15 PM Leadership Board 6:30 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	17 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 12 PM Golden Links (Pizza Ranch) 6:15 PM Youth Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 6th Sunday of Easter Teacher/Graduates Recognition 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9 AM Lectionary Class 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Traditional Worship	22 5 PM GriefShare	23 6:30 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	24 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study	25 5 PM GriefShare	26	27
28 7th Sunday of Easter 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9 AM Lectionary Class 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 Connecting Point 11 AM Traditional Worship	29 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	30 12:30 PM M Cards and Fellowship 6:30 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	31 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 7 PM Membership Orientation			Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed holidays)

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 1 Rachel Clayton
- 2 Diane Foss
- 3 Anna Dunnwald
- 3 Tom Harrison
- 3 Bob Walker
- 6 Morgan Schutt
- 7 Sheryl Hansen
- 8 Bob Lanz
- 10 Daniel Stanford
- 11 Richard Pankey
- 14 Keaton Schooley
- 15 Deborah Curson Vieira
- 15 Alana Lindo Steele
- 16 Gail Lindo
- 18 Marlene Andersen
- 18 Bill Heald
- 19 Bev Carnahan



- 20 Roger Lindo
- 22 Janet Wilfong
- 24 Alissa Lefebure
- 26 Carol Thompson
- 26 Nelly Lindo
- 27 Peyton Carnicle
- 31 Paul Vieira
- 31 Sue Mihal

Anniversaries:

- 1 Roger & Nelly Lindo
- 8 Charles & Fran Martinec
- 31 Joe & Anna Dunnwald

In Gratitude



We want to thank you for all you did for Sally. The food, the visitation, and the service was wonderful. We appreciate the lady that came to the house to see her. It was all great. Thanks so much.

Joan L. Pint
Sister of Sally Rohrer

Our sincere thanks to everyone for your prayers, concern, and cards during and after Ralph's recent hospital stay. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated! God bless you and yours.

In Christ's Love,
Ralph & Janet Wilfong

The family of Marcella Dorsey thanks you for your prayers during her illness, and for your prayers and kind expressions of sympathy after her death.

She enjoyed her visits to Salem and always appreciated your warm welcome. God bless you.

Larry & Kathy Schooley
Brian Schooley & family
Brad & Julie Schooley & family

United Methodist Women Nan Livingston, President

Sarah Circle will meet Thursday, May 11, at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Hostess is Judy Thomas. She will bring a sampling of supplies needed and items to sew for the feminine hygiene kits that are sent to Africa and other parts of the world. This program was mentioned in the unit meeting in March. Come and learn how we might get involved. All women are invited.

Rachel Circle will meet on Thursday, May 11, at 5:55 PM in Fellowship Hall. We will have a light supper, a

short meeting, and continue our study entitled, *“Why? Making Sense of God’s Will,”* written by Adam Hamilton.

He is the author who wrote the Lenten series study of John. The chapter for May is “Why do my prayers go unanswered?” We invite anyone interested to come join us for food, fellowship, friendship, and a study of faith.



Women’s Care Group



Women’s Care Group meets monthly to encourage and care for one another, and to extend that care beyond the walls of Salem.

Please plan to join us Sunday, May 7, at 12:30 PM at Perkins on 33rd Avenue SW.

All Golden-Agers Welcome!

Golden Links will meet on Wednesday, May 17, at 12 PM at Pizza Ranch (2450 Westdale Drive SW). Marilyn Schade will have the program. All seniors are invited. Please join us!

Call Jeff Cook (393-9180), Judy Thomas (390-6574) or Dick Talbott (247-9919) for information.



United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men's breakfast is Saturday, May 6, at 8 AM in Fellowship Hall. All men are invited to be a part of the United Methodist Men. Please make your reservations by calling Jeff Cook at 319-393-9180.

Mark Minger



Please mark your calendars for Thursday, June 15, to attend the men's annual Strawberry Festival.

Salem Servants



Are you looking for an afternoon at the theater? On Wednesday, May 10, retirees and senior citizens are invited to Jefferson High School for the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* at 1 PM in the auditorium. Admission is free and refreshments are served. Reservations are required, so please sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, May 7.

Salem Servants are also working on some mission projects. We are getting involved with Green Square Meals

again. Salem has served this mission in the past and we are going to restart this service. Supper is served from 4:30 to 5:30 PM, so volunteers are needed from 3:30 to 6:30 PM. We are planning to serve the first Thursday of each month, starting May 4.

Another project being planned is a work day for the new Habitat home being built on Chandler St. SW.

Come and join us as we serve our community and share our faith with our neighbors.

Any questions contact Linda Curson at lcurson@me.com or 319-651-8029; or Donna Borntreger at donnajborntreger@gmail.com or 319-213-1077.

May Mission Focus: Health Kits



Health Kits are a tangible way of helping others in need. They contain basic and necessary personal care items, and are distributed by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) in this country and around the

world to those who have been forced to leave their homes as a result of disasters or other trauma. Would you consider helping others in this way this month?

Bags with listed items are available near the Mission Center in Fellowship Hall. Filled bags will be collected until May 28.

“For people who are feeling powerless in being able to help those in need, providing health kits is the tangible way they can make an immediate difference.”
—Kathy Kariza, UMCOR

For additional information, please contact Joni Salazar (319-573-3943) or Evelyn Prasil (319-366-3683.)

Youth

Salem’s Youth Group has experienced a life-changing and transforming year together on Wednesday nights. Learning about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus has been our focus this year. We’ve grown closer to Jesus and with each other through personal testimonies, prayer, studying John during Lent, and encouraging one another in Christ. Please note, Wednesday, May 17 will be our last time together before summer with an end of the year party.



Sunday School Summer Recess



The last day of children’s Sunday School for this school year will be Sunday, May 21. Then we will have a Summer recess. Sunday School will begin again in the Fall.

Report of the Leadership Board

Following the subcommittee meetings at 5:15 PM, the full board met at 5:33 PM. LB Chair Nancy Rawson opened with prayer and led the meeting. Ron Andreasen and Carole Beaton shared their faith stories.

Treasurer's Report – •The income and expenses for the first three months (January – March) of this year were reviewed and compared to budget figures for the same time period. Although the annual giving amount is lower and expenses are higher than budgeted, indications are strong that these numbers will change significantly in the second quarter. •The LB agreed last month to apply additional funding to the principal amount of our building loan. However, we will delay transferring those funds until donations to the building fund increase. •The timeline for transitioning to Vanco Payment Solutions for processing of online giving will likely occur earlier in the year (June) in order to take advantage of pricing discounts. Linda Curson will be working with Vanco on this transition.

Coffeemaker for the Kitchen – The need for a new coffeemaker for the kitchen was discussed. A proposal to purchase a Bunn coffeemaker system was presented. There are adequate connections (electrical and water) available in the kitchen for this system. Brian Schooley made a motion to proceed with the purchase of the Bunn coffeemaker system. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. Some individuals will be contacted who have previously expressed an interest in donating money toward this purchase.

Trustees –•Recent power outage issues have affected our AV system in the sanctuary. Novak Electric was contacted to see if there were electrical issues contributing to the issues. They recommended the installation of three surge protectors. The LB approved a motion to proceed with this installation. •The countertop portion of the storage area in Fellowship Hall for tables and chairs has been installed. Work on the cabinets should be complete in about three weeks. •An energy audit of our facility was conducted today. The assessment report is expected soon [received April 19]. •The church lock-up schedule for May through August was presented.

Meeting Notes 4-18-17

SPRC – •The job description for a Director of Communication for Salem is complete. Our previous administrative assistant, Julie Lefebure, will be offered this 4-6 hour per week position. •An applicant for the Administrative Assistant position will be contacted and interviewed.

Another Set of Eyes Ministry Appraisal – The LB conducted an evaluation of the performance of the pastor. The responses will be compiled for the final report.

Closing – Nancy Rawson closed with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.





May 2017 Forecaster

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RETURN SERVICE

REQUESTED

**Salem's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
"connecting people, building community, transforming lives through Jesus"**

Salem's Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship	Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Lectionary Class	Lower Level Room 6
10:00 AM	Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall
10:10 AM	Sunday School	Lower Level
11:00 AM	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary

Nursery for infants through 4-year-olds is available on the Lower Level during worship services and Sunday School.



Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM
(closed standard holidays)