



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 15, 2019

An Update and a **Call** from “Your” Church Board:

“Our” Way Forward – These past few months have been challenging times for the United Methodist Church. The UMC 2019 General Conference’s special session decision regarding church inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community and more recently the ruling of the Judicial Council has led us as Christians to take an introspective look at where we fit in. Your Church Board has been meeting in special sessions to deliberate, listen, discuss, and pray throughout this time. The General Conference decision basically underlined the statement in The Book of Discipline that “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching”. In light of this, you might ask, “What is **Our** way forward as disciples of Christ here at First United Methodist Church in Hendersonville?”

We are and have been doing so many great things out there in this community and we are **changing lives and making disciples**. We have so much more to do. We are more than one issue, but we are called by Christ to love all which requires us to do our best to be inclusive. There are strong emotions on both sides of this issue. Pastor Mark explained his personal view a few weeks ago in a very moving sermon.

Over the next two months we request each of you attend a small group informational/conversation session to study and discuss the different sides of this issue. We owe it to one another to respectfully listen and to **hear** each other and then to continue to love one another despite our differences. The body of Christ is diverse. The love of Christ is unconditional and never failing and does not discriminate.

These information sessions and conversations will help us work toward a churchwide resolution and move us forward. Please pray about this, reflect on this, and join us in these sessions. We can all agree that we believe in the radical love of Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Bart Salvaggio and the Church Board

Please see reverse side for class information and schedule

In this one-session class, Pastor Mark will present two ways of interpreting scripture in relation to the current debate in the United Methodist denomination around homosexuality, marriage and ordination. He will then share his own position and describe how he believes it can be supported biblically. He also encourages all who are open to sticking around a bit longer, to share their experiences, concerns and views with him.

No Registration Necessary.

Tuesday, May 21 11AM-Noon, Chapel 5:30-6:30PM, Gettman	Wednesday, May 22 9:30-10:30AM, Gettman *6:30-7:30PM, Gettman	Tuesday, May 28 11AM-Noon, Gettman *5:30-6:30PM, Gettman
Wednesday, May 29 9:30-10:30AM, Gettman 6:30-7:30PM, Chapel	Sunday, June 2 *10:15-11:15AM, Barber CLC *12:15-1:15PM, Gettman	Tuesday, June 4 11AM-Noon, Gettman 5:30-6:30PM, Gettman
Wednesday, June 5 9:30-10:30AM, Gettman *6:30-7:30PM, Gettman	*Childcare Provided	