

Twin Flames

May 1, 2019 Volume 19 Edition 18

Act Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with God (Micah 6:8, NIV)

Mt. Baker Sunrise photo courtesy of Pamela Davis Headridge

TWIN FLAMES NOW ON SUMMER SCHEDULE

Starting with this issue, the Twin Flames will only be published twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday through August. Deadline for article submission will be the 1st and 3rd Monday of those months. Late submissions will be included in the weekly emails.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

This year's church outing to a Mariners game is scheduled for Saturday, July 27th when we take on the Detroit Tigers.

If you ordered tickets, Dave Russell will be in Centennial Hall after worship all Sundays in May to collect \$33 per ticket. You can also call him at 360-675-1910.



"WE MAKE THE ROAD..." SMALL GROUP

If you are reading the book *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren, let's get together to share our reactions to the concepts presented. Join us in the discussion on the first Monday of each month at 3:00 pm downstairs In Room 11. Come with the intent of talking about an insight or idea that has personal meaning to you or a question you have for others. At the **May 6th** meeting, **chapters 31-34** will be the topics of discussion. For information contact Susan Schopf (360-675-9469) or Ginger Opdyke (360-679-9071).

HOME COMMUNION

Home communion will be delivered on Sunday, May 5th. Call Sandy Shields at 360-675-9585 if you would like to be added to the list of recipients.

IN NEED OF PRAYER

- ...Tracy Brandt (recovering from a stroke at Life Care Center in Mt. Vernon)
- ...Julia Adams (at home recovering)
- ...Matthew Ferguson (grandson of Helen Mosbrooker, missing in SC since 3-1-19)
- ...Louise Lind (home recovering from a stroke)
- ...Norma Edens (health concerns)
- ...DJ Ransdell (preparing to move to Bothell)
- ...Phil Wendling (Ashley Gardens in Mt. Vernon)
- ...Donna Apperson (Harbor Care)
- ...Betty Ann Robbins (Harbor Care)
- ...Cassie Hickey (Welcome Home Care Center)

BIRTHDAYS

- May 12 Julia Adams
Blake Ritter
- May 16 Bob Vogt
- May 17 Judy Bordeaux
- May 20 Dennis Doll
- May 25 Jacqui Landry





"We wait in hope for the Lord"
~ Psalm 33:20

Dear FUMC Church family,

As most of you know, last month I started in motion a process for clarifying our own church's position on human sexuality. This was intended to be an effort to see if we are in alignment with our denomination or in disagreement. After further prayerful and careful consideration, the Council has decided to indefinitely defer this conversation, to wait and see what will be coming from the Judicial Council ruling (April 26th or soon after) and some larger denominational conversations by representatives from the two most influential groups (Traditionalists and One Church advocates). The Council's intention is to give us more space and greater context to evaluate any future decision we may make. Perhaps many will breathe a sigh of relief at this point.

As a conservative and traditional pastor who holds to orthodox, scriptural, Wesleyan theology, I have always celebrated and adhered to our denominations teachings. I initially offered the two-path conversation to bring freedom and clarity to your future and mine. Not wanting to be a draconian leader (harsh, strict and authori-tarian), and force upon my people a theological understanding of life and human sexuality that may be anathema to them, I had intended to let the church decide (in its own freedom of conscience and faith) what kind of church they want to be and what they want to teach on this issue. Both church parishioners, and the pastor, would then know what to do next based upon their own convictions.

Some might wonder, now that this clarifying conversation is not scheduled to take place, where does that leave us? As it stands, we are a United Methodist Church and are being led by an ordained and appointed United Methodist pastor. The theology of our church has not changed on this issue. I am ordained and appointed under these theological convictions and assigned to see that they (and all others) are honored in our church's life and ministry.

As in any organization, there are individuals who may think or believe differently than the church's official teachings. You are welcome here and loved. But together, corporately, and as a whole, the First United Methodist Church family of Oak Harbor will remain firmly and unequivocally anchored in our historic theological teachings which are rooted in scripture and our Wesleyan tradition. That means that the church disciplinary prohibitions remain in force. There are four foundational prohibitions on this issue:

1. Homosexuality as a valid sexual practice ¶ 161.G
2. Ordination and appointment of homosexual pastors ¶ 304.3
3. Marriages by pastors or in our churches of same-sex couples ¶341.6
4. Financial support of advocacy groups that counter our church's teachings on this issue. ¶ 806.9

But to these prohibitions, we must add a host of language (in the UMC Discipline) which reminds us of inclusion of all people, the treating and loving and befriending of all as family and beloved, trusting that every human being carries sacred worth in their lives because of our common Creator. This is why we also firmly believe, as quoted in the rest of the Social Principals in the UMC book of Discipline on Human Sexuality:

We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons. (¶ 161.F).

Many have been advocating the One Church plan as the hope of a "middle way." However, Dr. Bill Arnold, a United Methodist Elder from the Kentucky Annual Conference, and the Paul S. Amos Professor of Old Testament Interpretation at Asbury Theological Seminary, rightly contends (in my view) that the United Methodist Church IS the best middle way! Faithfulness to biblical boundaries and faithfulness to radical, inclusive, neighborly love. This is the way of Jesus: "Neither do I condemn you" and "Go now and leave your life of sin" (John 8:11).

At our recent Puget Sound District Table Talk event which we hosted, our superintendent (Mark Galang) challenged us to write some reflections. One of the questions was: "How do you feel called to respond to General conference 2019?" Here is what I, as your pastor wrote:

"I will stay in the difficult and beautiful story of United Methodism. I will seek to be a bridge builder, peacemaker, listener, neighbor lover, friend maker, and difference respecter as I make my way forward, advocating for, and living out from within, our historic, traditional theology of human sexuality. This is who I am. Is this who you are?"

Let's talk!



PASS THE TORCH

If you were at this past Sunday's service, you had the opportunity to hear Grant Steller play for his first church service.

He was one of the contestants in this year's Whidbey Has Talent and won third place for his original composition "Morning Memories." He is also a soccer player, a talented young actor who appeared as Grimsby in last summer's "Little Mermaid" at the Whidbey Playhouse. It was a joy helping him prepare for Sunday as we are in need of new musicians to fill in for Lisa when she needs to take a day off. Meeting this young musician and inviting him to play for our church as a sub reminded me of when I first started playing for the church.

I was 14 or 15 years old. For several weeks I had spent hours trying to get my feet to perform the exercises assigned by my teacher, Mrs. Boon. After weeks of tedious practice, the time had come for me to accompany a congregational hymn for the first time in my young life.

I don't remember the hymn. The congregation began to sing and Mary, our choir director stood nearby. Then, disaster struck. I hit a wrong note, and then another and I froze. I had not learned to keep going despite mistakes. In the middle of the hymn, I panicked and froze.

What happened next redeemed this musician's horror story and remains a fond memory to me and at least a few of the choir members who witnessed this scene at the back of the church: Before the congregation missed a beat Mary reached around me and started playing. I was hot with embarrassment and shame at having messed up this important task but she calmly whispered to me as she played: "Take a deep breath and come back in when you are ready."

I fought back tears, took a few deep breaths and began to play again. Mary stopped playing and I finished the rest of the hymn. I am forever grateful for her gentle encouragement and allowing me to take on the responsibility of playing for our congregation. I am also forever grateful to my first teacher, who came to my house and let me play music that was far too advanced for me to play because it was what I wanted to play. And to Kay Boon, who, after her initial response to my butchering the music my first teacher allowed me to attempt, taught me to play with accuracy, musicality and correct technique. I am grateful for the opportunity to take organ lessons before I really liked the organ, and for the week of Pipe Organ Encounter after my freshman year of high school where I fell in love with the instrument.

Over the years, I have been influenced and inspired by many musicians who have facilitated a space for me to grow and mature into the musician I am today. They laid the foundation for both the skills that I possess today and my passion for nurturing young musicians in the same way they nurtured me.

I enjoy leading worship, I find greater joy in creating space for young people to step into the roles which have become so comfortable to me. Let them sing. Let them play. Provide backup in the event that they miss an entrance or falter in their confidence. Pass the torch and watch them grow.

HOSPITALITY HOSTS

Hospitality Hosts are needed monthly to make coffee, set-up and clean-up, etc. Refreshments are also needed following worship.

Members whose last names begin with **P - R** are encouraged to sign-up for **May**. Guidance will be provided and your help is greatly appreciated by our congregation.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Yes, many thanks to my wonderful church family and friends. Your kind thoughts, prayers and hugs, phone calls, cards, etc. following the untimely and needless death of my dear grand-niece, Loren, are greatly appreciated. You were so kind and helped to bring peace to the whole family. Again, many, many thanks.

Love,

Phyllis Quinn





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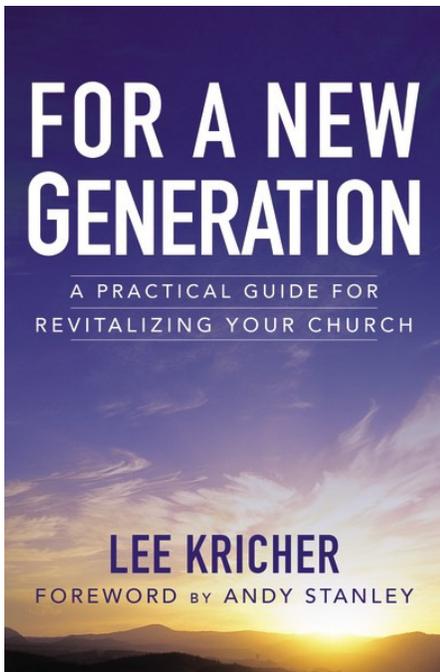
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Spring All-Church Small Group Study

April 28th to June 1st, 2019

**All-Church Gathering
Monday, June 3rd
6:30 to 8:00 pm**

Sunday, May 5th—COMMUNION

- 10:00 Worship
- 10:30 Children’s Sunday School
- 2:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, May 6th

- 10:00 We Care Team

Tuesday, May 7th

- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team
- 6:00 Young Adult Group
- 6:00 DP Power & Sail Squadron

Wednesday, May 8th

- 10:00 Folding Team
- 6:00 Family Small Groups
- 7:00 Choir Practice

Thursday, May 9th

- 9:00 BLOOD DRIVE
- 6:00 DP Power & Sail Squadron

Sunday, May 12th-Mother’s Day

- 10:00 Worship
- 10:30 Children’s Sunday School

Monday, May 13th

- 7:00 Church Team Meetings

Tuesday, May 14th

- 8:00 OH Garden Club
- 6:00 DP Power & Sail Squadron

Wednesday, May 15th

- 6:00 Family Small Groups
- 7:00 Choir

Thursday, May 16th

- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team
- 6:00 DP Power & Sail Squadron

Friday, May 17th

- 8:00 OH Garden Club Flower Show

Saturday, May 18th

- 8:00 OH Garden Club Flower Show

Small Groups Continue as Scheduled