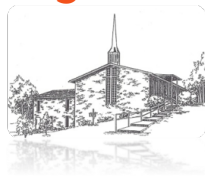


Pegram UMC



Newsletter

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28 February, 2020

Around the Church

There is a rhythm to the Christian Calendar, an ebb and flow, which causes some seasons to be busy and full of activity and some to be calm, quiet, and offers time for us to catch our breath. January and February often have that calm vibe. The Christmas and Advent season have come and gone, and we slow down for a moment. Blessings abound in both the fast paced and slower times. God is with us in the busy seasons, working alongside us and preparing our way. And likewise, God is with us in the quieter times, meeting us in the stillness with comfort, peace, and restoring grace. So as always, through every season, we have been very blessed.

That said, even in the calm, we have still experienced a lot of powerful and fun moments in our regular routines over the past month, even if there have not been many "special events." To begin, our worship life continues to thrive. We experience Spirit-filled worship regularly. The faithful of Pegram and the visitors, who join us week in and week out, are finding encouragement through the warm fellowship, heart-felt singing, times of prayer, and proclamation of the Word. Out of the eight Sunday's so far this year, we have had an attendance greater than our 2019 average in five of them. I pray God keeps us trending in this direction!

The Wednesday senior lunch has also had some fun (and even magical) moments. Butch Rogers arranged for a magician to come and perform for the weekly lunch crowd. This magician was extremely impressive, funny, and entertaining. I am still trying to figure out how he stuffed a red handkerchief into a fully blown up and tied off balloon...it was pretty wild and I am still scratching my head. This was not the only entertainment that has recently been provided at the Wednesday lunch. We had a magnificent harpist come and play for us, not only was her talent quite evident as she masterfully displayed her musical craft, but what was even more incredible is she was legally deaf! I encourage people to come join us on Wednesday's the food is great, the fellowship sweet, and there is always some type of entertainment.

We also launched a new ministry, which I mentioned in last month's newsletter, in which we are writing letters to incarcerated individuals and sending them books. This ministry has proved fruitful quickly. All four inmates we are corresponding with have written us back and have been full of gratitude that we are thinking of them and interacting with them. This ministry is officially called "blessings behind bars."

Though I began by saying we were in a calm season, we do now enter back into full gear. Ash Wednesday was observed this week and we are now in the season of Lent. This is a season of preparation as we journey with Christ towards Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We had a moving Ash Wednesday service in which we offered to God our humble penitence, reminded ourselves of our need for forgiveness and grace, and we were blessed with a message from Elizabeth Dixon. As we go through Lent my prayer is that we all feel the Presence of Jesus and that we all either fast from something or take up a new spiritual discipline so that we can be intentional about having our hearts and minds ready for that most wonderful day of Easter.

A final note, our trustees have been extremely active in helping beautify our church grounds. Check out the cross outside that has been freshly wrapped in white aluminum and check out the hedge line that has been cleared away between the parking lot and green house. It all looks great!

Weekly Calendar

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.-- Sunday School
10:30 a.m. -- Worship

Monday: 5:30 p.m. -- AA meeting

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. -- Senior lunch
6:30 p.m. -- Choir

Thursday: 7:30a.m. --men's coffee hour @Iron Skillet

Friday: 5:00-7:00 p.m. -- Prayer Meeting

Special Note!

A revival has broken out in East Tennessee. If you want to read about it you can follow this link: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/waves-of-repentance-revival-occurring-in-tennessee.html>

Revival is something I have been praying for, that people would flood to the altar of God, repent of sin, and trust in Christ alone for salvation. This prayer I offer daily to God is one I long to see here in South Cheatham (and I do think we are seeing some first fruits of it), but I also tell God that I do not care where he chooses to send that blessing of revival, because the fire of revival always seems to spread.

So, let us praise God for answering our prayers in East Tennessee and let us continue to pray that as those flames are fanned, they come this direction! Praise God!

Upcoming Events!

Tues., March 3 – MOD Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wed., March 4 – Communications Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Thurs., March 5 – *Five Marks of a Methodist* Wesley study, 6:30 p.m. (beginning of a six-week study)

March 9 – UMW & *12 Extraordinary Women* Study, 6 p.m.

March 28 – Choir Pancake Breakfast, 7:30 – 9:30a.m.

March 29 – 5th Sunday Agape Meal with special presentation from Leah McMahon on the “ACEs” (adverse childhood experiences)

April 4 – Blessing of the Pets, 10a.m.

April 12- Easter Sunrise Service (Middle TN Veterans' Cemetery)

April 25th- Church Fish Fry

AA meetings are held at the church each Monday, 5:30 p.m.

Men's Coffee Hour at Iron Skillet (KS) each Thursday, 7:30 a.m.

Friday Prayer Meetings – Come as you are anytime between 5-7 p.m.

ARK FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Brother Gary Merritts has been reminding us recently of how important it is for us to donate to the Ark food pantry. We take a monthly collection of a particular item and collect that item downstairs in a basket by the main downstairs entrance and also in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. This month we have been collecting toilet paper and March will be a collection of canned meats. Through Gary's reminders our collections increased quite a bit this February. Let's keep that trend up through March and beyond!

The Ark is such a vital ministry here in South Cheatham. They are able to help and reach so many families who find themselves in struggles or with a lack of necessary resources. The Ark cannot do this without the support of local churches, families, and businesses. I think it is awesome how much we already do for the Ark, and I think we can take it even further through our food pantry donations. God calls us to show compassion and mercy to those in need, and says we will meet Christ through those interactions. Let us continue live out this noble calling to the best of our ability.

Wit & Wisdom

“worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows; it empties today of its strength.” -- Corrie Ten Boom

“Religion says I obey; therefore, I am accepted. Christianity says, I am accepted, therefore I obey.” -- Timothy Keller

“We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.” -- Chuck Swindoll

“The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you. -- Bernadette Devlin

“I have found a great paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only love.” -- Mother Teresa

“What comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” -- A.W. Tozer

“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle. -- Francis of Assisi

“There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no rock like our God.” -- Hannah (1 Samuel 2:2)

“And I, when I am lifted up, will draw all people to myself.” -- Jesus Christ (John 12:32)

United Methodist Church Government

We are living through a rather tumultuous time within the denominational life of the United Methodist Church. Most of you who keep up with even the slightest bit of UMC news have undoubtedly heard rumors that our denomination may very well be headed for schism this May when the General Conference meets. Our denominational infighting has even been highlighted in the *Tennessean* newspaper and on national news like Reuters and CNN.

With all the news and publicity, with all the anxieties and uncertainties about the future, and with all the debate swirling around about how the denomination should teach and apply doctrine on topics of human sexuality, it is easy for one to get lost in the noise. When that happens...take a deep breath...pray to God...and remember, God is in control no matter what the outcomes may be.

Now, with all that said, I thought it might be helpful in this newsletter to simply outline how the government of our denomination functions and operates. Gaining knowledge of how our system works, has been for me, one of the best ways to ease feelings of anxiety and has aided me in how I pray for our denomination. I can direct those prayers toward the people and discerning bodies who most need our prayers at this critical moment in the life of our denomination.

Yet before we begin, I want to state clearly that this article is not going to dive into the theological questions at hand regarding human sexuality. If you want to have that conversation with me, please feel free to email, call, or meet with me in person. I welcome those discussions. This article is simply about how our denomination's government is structured.

The UMC has a government that is in many ways modeled after the three-branch system of the United States Government. We have an executive branch which is made up of the college of bishops. Bishops are essentially the chief elders of an annual conferences (we will discuss what an annual conference is in a bit). The Bishops offer pastoral care and guidance to an annual conference, they appoint annually where clergy will serve within the conference, and they offer vision and instruction for the conference they serve as well. Bishops do not set doctrine, but they help teach and maintain it.

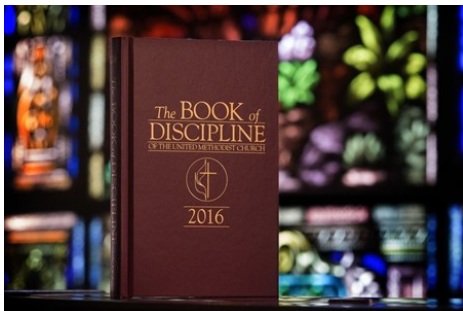
We also have a judicial branch. I will not need to spend much time on this, because it is somewhat self-explanatory. We have a system of courts which rules on cases where malpractice or misconduct has taken place. They rule on issues where the *book of discipline* has been broken (we will also discuss the *book of discipline* in a bit). Let's look at an example of this. In our doctrine we only baptize an individual once. We are not allowed to re-baptize someone who has already been baptized. It does not matter what denomination they came from or who performed their baptism. We believe that God's grace works through any baptism a person has received. Therefore, if a pastor re-baptizes someone knowingly, because they reject that the previous baptism "took" (for lack of a better word), this pastor could be brought before one of our judicial courts. They may decide to suspend or revoke his/her ordination over this infraction, or hand down some other type of consequence for the malfeasance.



The third branch is the most important for us to consider, it has the most to do with the current situation we are in. The UMC is made up of various conferences, each one being on a spectrum of largest to smallest. The largest conference is the General Conference. Following as second largest is the Jurisdictional Conference. Then third is the Annual Conference. And finally, we have the Charge Conference. What are each of these?



Because I would like to focus on the General Conference, I will briefly describe these others. The Jurisdictional Conference is made up of many Annual Conferences within a particular region (we are in the South Eastern Jurisdictional Conference). Each Annual Conference sends delegates to meet at Jurisdictional Conference, and their main (yet not their only) task is to elect and consecrate bishops. The Jurisdictional Conference meets every four years. The Annual Conference is made up of all the local churches within a specific and smaller geographical region, and it meets every year (hence the name annual). We are in the "Tennessee Conference," soon to be the "Western Kentucky-Tennessee Conference" as we have agreed to merge with the Memphis Conference. The Annual Conference is composed of clergy and lay delegates from all the churches in their geographical boundaries. They set the Conference budget, they ordain candidates to become elders and deacons, they vote on resolutions, remember clergy and clergy spouses who went to glory that year, and recognize retiring pastors, etc... The Charge Conference is the local church. Pegram UMC is an example of a Charge Conference.



Which brings us to the big topic. The General Conference. This is our highest legislative body. This is the most authoritative voice in the UMC apart from God and the Scriptures (we pray of course the General Conference voice be in harmony with God). It is made up of clergy and lay delegates from the Annual Conferences all around the globe. While bishops preside over the Conference, they do not participate in voting.



The General Conference meets every four years and they vote to uphold, amend, add to or subtract from our *book of discipline*. This is our book of doctrinal standards, it contains our Methodist constitution, it speaks to how church bodies are to be set up, what committees are mandatory in the local church, it speaks to social principles, parsonage standards, and so much more...everything necessary to know about how the UMC functions and what it teaches is in this *book of discipline*. This May (from the 5th to 15th) our General Conference will be meeting in Minneapolis. The question of human sexuality and the potential for schism will be seriously considered. Pray for this body. Pray for the delegates. Nothing is official unless they vote it into action. My opinions, your opinions, and your cousins' opinions do not have any sway in any decision for our denomination. Indeed, only the General Conference has the say so to change doctrine, maintain doctrine, or amend doctrine. All the work of the General Conference is done prayerfully under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in the light of the witness of Scripture, and through the holy fellowship of the gathered body of delegates. So, if you are feeling anxious, pray for the General Conference and its delegates. And finally, realize that nothing will be official until after May, no matter what rumors you hear circulating. God be with the people called Methodist



Lent

Lent is a time
Of reflection and thought
A time to reflect on what
Jesus has taught



A time to give up
A pleasure so dear
To make our hearts ready
As Easter draws near

A time to focus on sacrifices
He made that day
A time for fasting
And a time to pray



40 days of preparation
For the one who was sent
40 days of reflection
during the time of Lent

Trisha M Biggs



Bible Trivia! (answers at bottom of page)

Category: Prophets

Q1: Which prophet spoke to a valley of dry bones?

Q2: Which prophet goes down to the Potter's house to hear a word from God?

Q3: Which prophet does Peter quote in his sermon in Acts 2 when he says, "your sons and daughters will prophecy, and your old men dream dreams."?

Q4: Which prophet defeats the false priests of Baal on Mount Carmel?

Q5: Which prophet confronts David after he has wronged Bathsheba and Uriah?

Q6: Which prophet spends three days in the belly of a giant fish?

Q7: Which prophet says, "the righteous by faith shall live"? Saint Paul quotes this in Romans chapter 3.



FUN PHOTOS!



(Butch opens for the magician)

(Magician wows us all)



(beautiful harp music played)




(freshly wrapped cross looks great)

Trivia answers: 1) Ezekiel 2) Jeremiah 3) Joel 4) Elijah 5) Nathan 6) Jonah 7) Habakkuk

PEGRAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Ginger Hockenberger (B) Shelia Harris (B) Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Pat McDonald (B) Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rachel Hockenberger Hodges (B) Worship NHC The Trace 2pm	AA 5:30pm	Adam Newton (B)	Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Katie Greer (B) Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	Dalton Rucker (B)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Church Council 11:45am	UMW 6 pm AA 5:30pm		Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	John & Sandra Radford (A) Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	AA 5:30pm		Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Brittni Woodall (B) Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	Choir Pancake Breakfast 7:30-9:30 Adults \$7 Children (10 and under) \$4
29	30	31				
Agape Pot-Luck Lunch following Service to follow with Leah McMahon providing ACES (Advanced Childhood Experiences) training	Linda Greer (B) AA 5:30pm	Jenifer Bell (B)		Regular Sunday Schedule Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am	(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday	

PEGRAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Sean Mevis (B) Prayer Meeting 5 pm	Gary & Jamie Merritts (A) Cathy Beck (B) Blessing of the Pets 10 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship NHC The Trace 2pm	Sarah Femino (B) AA 5:30pm		Adam Moffatt (B) Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 Sun Rise Service VA Cemetery	UMW 6 pm AA 5:30pm		Rick Newton (B) Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Jo Lampley (B) Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Church Council 11:45am	AA 5:30pm		Jane Harris (B) Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	Church Fish Fry Adults \$ 10 Children (10 and under) \$ 6
26	27	28	29	30		
	AA 5:30pm		Elfriede Patrick (B) Emma Neely (B) Leah McMahon (B) Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Regular Sunday Schedule Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am	(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday	