

7. Local churches that choose to affiliate with a new denomination must maintain their connectional responsibilities until the separation is official.
8. \$25 million would be paid over four years to a new traditionalist denomination with no further claims to UM assets.
9. \$2 million would be reserved for other denominations that may be formed.
10. \$39 million over eight years would be designated to support ethnic ministries worldwide as well as Africa University.
11. Pension plans would remain in place for all clergy and lay employees regardless of where they affiliate.
12. **The Protocol** requests that all judicial and administrative complaints around LGBTQ matters be held in abeyance.

General Conference legislation for **The Protocol** is currently being written. All of the proposals around human sexuality will be open for amendments at the 2020 General Conference.

I believe that **The Protocol** offers a viable way to move forward in vital ministry as we share the transformative love of Jesus Christ with the world. Written by United Methodists representing a variety of groups and US and Central Conferences, the proposal is an expression of grace and reconciliation that will allow United Methodists to more faithfully share God's love and hope.

We are, indeed, at a time of impending change in The United Methodist Church. It is also a time of great opportunity for United Methodists to witness to the world that we can acknowledge our differences through separation at the same time as we express grace and reconciliation toward one another.

If **The Protocol** is passed at the 2020 General Conference, we have scheduled a tentative date of Saturday, October 10, 2020 for the Iowa Annual Conference to vote on whether to become a new Methodist traditionalist denomination or continue to be The United Methodist Church where all prohibitions are removed in regard to human sexuality.

In the meantime, I have vowed to hold in abeyance all administrative and judicial processes related to LGBTQ prohibitions as we move through General Conference 2020.

I am asking you to do four things in the coming weeks and months.

1. Pray for The United Methodist Church as General Conference approaches.
2. Pray for our General and jurisdictional Conference delegates who will be voting on many petitions, including human sexuality.
3. Continue to find new and creative ways to share the good news of Jesus Christ through evangelism, mission, and outreach to your communities.
4. Please make a diligent effort to stay current in your local church apportionments. The only way we can change the world is to be faithful in the ministry that we have committed to share together.

Thank you for the privilege of being your episcopal leader. I pray for our laity, clergy, and congregations continually. Together, may our God lead us into a future of hope, as we blanket the state of Iowa and our world with love, faithfulness, and compassion.

Blessings,  
Bishop Laurie

## OUR SHARED MINISTRY

### LITURGISTS FOR MARCH

March 1	Don Blackstone
March 8	John O'Connor
March 15	Peggy Corrington
March 22	Glenda Parrish
March 29	Barb Kratz

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FOR MARCH

March 1	Ervina Scott
March 8	Korrie Coombs
March 15	Peggy Corrington
March 22	Liza Parker
March 29	Kim Wych

### GREETERS FOR MARCH

March 1	Bill and Judy Jentz Dick and Betty Point
March 8	Ervina Scott Neil and Jodi Phipps
March 15	Shelley Lenz Dana and Pandora Phipps
March 22	Virgil Pyle Bruce and Leah Dagle
March 29	Dick and Betty Point Gene and Jeannie Anderson

### USHERS FOR MARCH

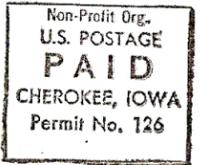
March 1	Don and Jeanne Blackstone Rod and Priscilla Bainbridge
March 8	Don and Jeanne Blackstone Rod and Priscilla Bainbridge
March 15	Bruce and Leah Dagle Kenny and Melissa Schlenger
March 22	Dan Bechtel Bruce and Leah Dagle Kevin and Karla Wilkie
March 29	Mike and Dee Taylor Kevin and Karla Wilkie

### OUR MINISTRY SUPPORTED

Our weekly budgeted needs at St. Paul's are \$4,414. Right now our year to date giving is keeping up with the budgeted needs. Well done! Keep up the good work!

### CONTACT US

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Pastor Cris's phone	(515) 423-6421
The Rev. Cris Decious	cris.decious@iaumc.net
Meribeth Adams	meribethadams@outlook.com



### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## March 2020 UMW Buzz



**No March Unit Meeting**—Attend Sermons Ala Carte held at Memorial Presbyterian Church on Wednesdays at 12:05 p.m.

**Executive Board** – Monday, March 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall

### March Circle Meetings

Program - p. 57 *Lighting the Way Through Partnerships*

**Grace Circle** - Wed., March 11th 7:00 p.m. at church  
Hostess: Marci Brown Co-Hostess: Jeannette Grant Program: Judy Grienke-Miller  
**Joy Circle** – Wed., March 18th - 9:30 a.m. at church  
Hostess: Glenda Parrish Program: Barb Kratz  
**Charity Circle** - Wed., March 18th - 1:30 p.m. at church  
Hostess: Ervina Scott Program: Patti Blum

### Upcoming Events ...

**Executive Board** - Monday, April 13th at 9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall

## PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Charles Kay Davis. Charlie Davis, 82, passed away on Tuesday evening, February 18th, at Accura Healthcare in Cherokee.

## WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Eric and Samantha Van Roekel on the birth of their daughter. Charlotte Lee Van Roekel was born at CRMC on February 9th. She was welcomed home by her big brothers, Lance and Christopher, and her big sister Madison. Charlotte's proud grandparents are Jill and Jared Peterson of Cherokee, and Jon Myers, Melissa Van Roekel, and David Smith (who all live out of state). Charlotte's great-grandparents are Lorrene Sull-Lakin of Gilmore City and Russell Paeper of Cherokee.

## WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Corey and Katie Carlton of Creston on the birth of their twins. Walker Douglas Carlton was born at 8:44 a.m. on February 12th. His sister, Emma KayAnn Carlton, arrived at 8:45 a.m. The twins were welcomed home by their big sister Landry. Walker and Emma's proud grandparents are Kirk and Lori Ebel of Cherokee.

## WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Lorrene Sullivan and Harold "Butch" Lakin who were married on Friday, February 14th. If you would like to send your best wishes to the happy couple, their address is Harold Lakin and Lorrene Sull-Lakin, 116 NW B Avenue, Gilmore City, IA 50541.

## THANK YOU FROM NORMA FOX

I appreciate the UMW pin given to me, and I'm grateful to be a part of this church.

## CORRECTION TO THE 2020 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dave Appleby's name was inadvertently omitted from the 2020 Leadership Team that was printed in the February issue of The Dome. Dave is again serving on the St. Paul's Board of Trustees.

## PASTOR'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Pastor Cris will have a spiritual retreat from February 26th through March 3rd. Bruce Amundson will be our guest speaker on Sunday, March 1st. We will have communion on Sunday, March 8th.

## VISITATION TEAM MEETING

St. Paul's visitation team will meet on Wednesday, March 4th, at 9:30 a.m. in the office.

## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING

St. Paul's Evangelism Committee will meet on Monday, March 9th, at 10:00 a.m. in the church library.

## CARD SHOWER FOR JOYCE GROFF

Joyce Groff will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on Wednesday, March 18th. Happy Birthday wishes may be sent to Joyce at this address: Accura Healthcare of Spirit Lake, 1912 Zenith Avenue, Room 123, Spirit Lake, IA 51360. We know Joyce will enjoy hearing from her St. Paul's United Methodist Church family!



## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

As we approach the season of Lent 2020, I want us to reflect on Psalm 130. This song in Psalm 130 is a cry for God to hear our voices as we wait on God's answers. Verse six says, "My soul waits for the Lord; More than those who watch for the morning – Yes, more than those who watch for the morning." In our modern day, as we live in a fast-paced society and computer age, the word "waiting" is not a very popular word. Nobody gets particularly excited when we have to wait on something or someone. We want things to come to us quickly. We want fast internet, fast food, fast mail service, quick and easy money, and fast answers to our problems from God. But the writer of this Psalm lets us know that there are times when we need to wait on the Lord. We may be able to receive from God better as we wait on God and God's timing.

In one of my first congregations while I was in seminary, I had a friend named Frank. He was a wonderful man but was struggling with liver cancer. He was always available to do odd jobs around the church and carried a loving attitude toward everyone at church. When he started receiving treatments for his cancer, it made him have to slow down from his fast-paced life and stay at home. This was difficult for Frank. I remember frequently visiting his home during his last days here on Earth. The Christmas before he died, Frank had me come to his house. He presented me with a handmade waste basket made out of cherry wood. It still sits in my office at home today. He carved his name on the bottom. I was touched by his gesture. As we talked, Frank told me that because he was slowed down from the cancer he was forced to spend more time listening to the Lord and less time talking! I knew that he spent his last few months on Earth listening and waiting on the Lord. He died a few months after presenting me with his handcrafted gift.

As Frank spent time with the Lord at the end of his life, he seemed to have more clarity about life and living. He seemed to have more answers and patience. His wife and grown children were blessed by his wisdom that he departed to them at the end of his life. Many in the church were touched by his life, and he was surely missed after he died. After he passed to heaven, his example of living out his life stayed with that congregation.

During this time of Lent, I want to encourage us to take time to wait on the Lord. Does this mean that we are waiting patiently on the Lord for answers in our life? Or, does this possibly mean to take the time and wait in God's presence as we wait for God to bring clarity to our circumstances? I believe that the answer is YES to both! Waiting on the Lord is a lost art in our fast-paced society. One of the most difficult things we can do is take the time to meditate on the Word of God and spend time in prayer. However, if we are going to hear from God, we are going to have to wait on the Lord. Not because God is slow to speak, but because we are slow to listen.

See you Sunday!

# THE DOME

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
March 2020



On January 26th, these three ladies received special recognition pins from the United Methodist Women honoring them for their many contributions of time and talent to St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

(Left to right): Norma Fox, Amy Stief, and Ervina Scott

## SERMONS ALA CARTE

The 35th annual Sermons Ala Carte began Wednesday, February 26th and will run for six consecutive weeks. This year's theme is "God's Eternal Truth." Sermons Ala Carte is being held at the Memorial Presbyterian Church (127 East Willow Street in Cherokee). The service in the sanctuary runs from 12:05-12:30, with a luncheon to follow in the dining hall. There is a \$3.00 charge for the luncheon. Listed below are the guest speakers for the remaining sermons:

March 4th "What is Truth?" John 18:38  
Pastor Jonathan Riggert—Trinity Lutheran Church, Cherokee

March 11th "Speak the Truth in Love" Ephesians 4:15  
Pastor David Hall—First Church of Christ, Cherokee

March 18th "Your Word is Truth" John 17:17  
Pastor Andrew Mahoney—Meriden Evangelical Free Church, Meriden

March 25th "Love Rejoices with Truth" 1 Corinthians 13  
Pastor Jeff Harris—First Baptist Church/Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Cherokee

April 1st "The Spirit of Truth" 1 John 4:6  
Pastor Cris Decious—St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Cherokee

## BISHOP LAURIE'S PASTORAL LETTER TO THE IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Grace and peace! As we experience snow and cold in Iowa, I am reminded of the graciousness and warmth of spirit that I witness in every corner of our state. In the midst of uncertainty and anxiety about the future of The United Methodist Church, you are engaged in transformative ministries in your local communities and around the world that are changing hearts and saving lives.

I would like to share my perspective on **The Protocol**, a new proposal to General Conference 2020 that relates to human sexuality.

On January 3, 2020, The Council of Bishops issued a press release on behalf of a group of sixteen United Methodists, representing many parts of our worldwide connection as well as caucus groups representing various theological viewpoints. This group issued a document called **Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation**.

The group met throughout the fall of 2019 in order to help The United Methodist Church move past our impasse around human sexuality. I admit that I recoiled when I first saw the word "separation" in the title of the document. I have always believed that we could find a way to honor our differences around human sexuality without separation. I love being part of a church that has varied convictions about matters of faith. However, in light of what seem to be unsolvable differences, I have come to see the wisdom of offering a way forward that undergirds separation with grace and reconciliation by all parties.

Primary features of **The Protocol** include:

1. A "respectful and dignified" separation is proposed, with the possibility of continued cooperation around matters of shared interest.
2. **The Protocol** provides a way for us to keep mission, outreach, and evangelism at the center of who we are.
3. At the heart of **The Protocol** is the formation of a new Methodist Traditionalist denomination. After separation, the current "post-separation" United Methodist Church would still continue.
4. Annual conferences, by a 57% majority, could vote to join a new Methodist denomination. If an Annual Conference does not take a vote on affiliation, it will remain part of the post-separation United Methodist Church.
5. Central conferences could vote to join a new Methodist denomination by a two-third majority vote.
6. Local churches could choose to join a different denomination than the one their conference joins by either a simple majority or a two-third majority vote. They would retain their property assets, and liabilities. Not voting at all implies remaining in the post-separation United Methodist Church.

-Pastor Cris