

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
130 E. WALNUT ST.
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WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 AM

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

**Lamplighter
Article Deadline
is the 20th of
each month.**



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THE LAMPLIGHTER
February 2020



Our Mission Statement:

“Teaching God’s Word by Living God’s Love”



FEBRUARY USHERS

Charles Miller, Doug Osborne, and Warren Dean .

MARCH USHERS

Dave LaChance, John Ramsey, Larry Kaufman, Randy McDonald, and Boyd Epperson.



Pastor Heather's Bible Study will resume February 26th. All are welcome!

ANNUAL AUDIT

Church Secretaries and Treasurers: It is time to turn in your books for the annual audit. If you have not done so, please turn your books into the church office.

Thank You

RIGHT NOW MINISTRY TRAINING



Pastor Heather will hold a training session for the Right Now Ministries site on February 2nd immediately following the morning worship service.

TRINITY CIRCLE

Trinity Circle will meet Thursday, February 6th at 1:00 PM at the Rusty Horseshoe. To make reservations call Correina Boyce at 419-468-7485 or Mary Anne Iles at 419-468-3179.



**PRAYING
FOR YOU
FRIENDS**

Dorothy Vose

Walnut Hills Retirement Home
P.O. Box 129
Walnut Creek, OH 44687

Paul Sherman

Mansfield Place, Apt 103
1841 Middle Bellville Rd
Mansfield, OH 44904

Ruth Lemke

421 Mission Lane
Room 106
Franklin, OH 45005

Judy Remy

Lexington Court Care Center
250 Delaware Street
Lexington, OH 44904

Nancy Weaver

Orchard Park
500 Wedgewood Court
Room 153
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

MAGNOLIA TERRACE

Peg Lust

Jan Shuck

MILL CREEK

Barbara Roelle
JoAnn Marlett

AT HOME

Bee Anderson
Kathie Miller

Happy Birthday!

Melanie Baker	02
Ann Eagle	06
Carol Rhodebeck	08
Mary Anne Iles	11
Megan Campbell	16
Eileen Dawson	18
Charles Lamborn	18
Nancy Wilson	21



Charles & Betty Miller 14

FOOD PANTRY

The following items are needed for the Food Pantry this month: Spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, and peanut butter.

Recipe of the Month



CHOCOLATE PIE

8 oz semi-sweet chocolate baking bar
2/3 C milk
8 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese
2 Oreo pie crusts
6 tsp sugar
Jumbo tub Cool Whip

1. Mix cream cheese with sugar and all but 2 tsp milk.
2. Break up chocolate bar and melt with 3 tsp milk.
3. Add melted chocolate to the cream cheese mixture, mix well.
4. Add large tub cool whip to chocolate/cheese mixture, beat well.
5. Pour mixture into pie shells—Freeze several hours. Let thaw few degrees before serving.

If desired, garnish with cool whip & slivered chocolate.

Pastor's Ponderings

What is going on in our denomination, and what does it mean for us at Christ United Methodist Church?

A Brief As Possible History of Church Splits: Take a very quick trip with me through the entirety of church history. The churches of the New Testament were house churches that were often persecuted. When the Roman Emperor Constantine came to power, he declared Christianity to be the national religion, and all those churches came together under the leadership of the Roman Catholic (meaning "universal") Church. However, over time the Roman Catholic Church, like all human institutions, became divided over issues of doctrine and theology. The Orthodox (meaning "right") Church was the first to try and reform the church, but it ended in a split due to irreconcilable differences in interpretation of doctrine. In the Middle Ages, first Martin Luther (Lutheran Church), then John Calvin (Reformed/Presbyterian Church), and finally Ulrich Zwingli (United Church of Christ) and their followers also tried to reform the Roman Catholic Church from within, but only resulted in creating separate denominations. After a couple of centuries, King Henry the VII of England and the pope had a falling out over whether or not the king should divorce and/or behead his wives, and the Church of England (Episcopal Church) was born. A couple of centuries after that, out of the Church of England came John and Charles Wesley and their bands of Methodists who wanted to once again reform the church and instead created a new denomination in the 13 British Colonies.

Among other denominations in the Colonies were the Church of the United Brethren and the Evangelical Association whose roots included Lutheran and Reformed traditions. Over time, those three denominations fractured into eleven denominations as different groups tried once again to reform from within and failed. However, through a series of mergers, in 1968 six of those eleven denominations became one: The United Methodist Church. To this pastor's knowledge, no other denomination in the world is the result of a denominational merger, a legacy of which we should be very proud. Five other denominations (The African Methodist Episcopal Church, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, The Wesleyan Church, The Free Methodist Church, and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church) split away at various times in church history and still exist as separate denominations today. Also related to us is the Church of the Nazarene which was initially made up of former Methodists and Pentecostals. Clear as mud? Good! All this goes to show that church splits over doctrine, theology, and attempts at reform are nothing new under the sun, and certainly nothing new in the history of the United Methodist Church.

The real reasons the UMC will most likely split: Like what has happened many times throughout church history, we are likely going to split over irreconcilable differences once again. On the surface, the issue is of LGBTQIA persons and their rights. Persons on one side (Progressives) are trying to reform the church away from what they see as bigotry, hatred, and damage that the church has caused towards persons made in God's image.

Persons on the other side (Traditionalists) are trying to reform the church back towards sound doctrine and theology. There are also many people who are caught in the middle. But this is only the surface argument as you dig deeper, the reasons for our differences is much more nuanced. What is the Bible? Is it just a collection of stories meant to teach us how to live moral lives (Progressives), or is it the Word of God (Traditionalists)? Who is Jesus? Is he a social justice warrior rebelling against the authorities of his day and standing up for the persecuted (Progressives), or is He the Son of God, the Living Word, and Lord of all (Traditionalists)? What is grace? Does it mean that the moment we ask Jesus into our hearts we are saved and can keep on living our lives the way we want to because he loves us and wants us to be happy (Progressives), or does it mean that because Jesus loves us he doesn't want us to remain as we are but to be changed and healed from our sin (Traditionalists)? Irreconcilable differences, indeed.

What does this mean for our congregation? Right now, nothing. However, this coming General Conference, May 5-15, 2020, could change everything. I should emphasize that exactly what will happen is unknown. In early January, a protocol that was written by several leaders of the different factions was presented to the world. It is just one of several proposals for separation that the General Conference will review, though it does appear to be the one that has garnered the most support. If it, or a similar plan passes, the United Methodist Church will fracture into *at least* two separate denominations.

It is likely that the Progressives will retain the United Methodist Church moniker and Cross and Flame and the Traditionalists (and possibly the Centrists or other bodies) will form another denomination with a name and logo still to be determined. The reasons the Progressives are keeping the name and logo are largely legal: The United Methodist Church as an entity cannot dissolve without a literal ton of paperwork and time that we do not really have. The Progressives also do not have the infrastructure in place to create a new denomination. The Traditionalists, on the other hand, out of fear of being kicked out by the Progressives, already have some of the infrastructure of a new denomination in place and are ready to go in case of a split. Because of this, it is likely that eventually, each local congregation, including ours, will need to vote on which denomination they would like to be part of. If a vote is not taken, the congregation will remain part of the UMC/Progressive denomination. All clergy; pastors, District Superintendents, and Bishops, will be forced to choose their denomination as well, independent of the local congregation/conference they are currently serving. It will be up to our Administrative Board to decide whether we will be taking a vote, when it will take place, and whether a simple or 2/3 majority is required. However, these decisions will not be able to be made until after the May 5-15 2020 General Conference.

Agape,

Pastor Heather