



2019 CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson - Margaret Fisher
Pastor - Richard Wesley
Lay Leader - Joy Holder
Lay Member of Annual Conference - Robert Neitzke
Alternate Lay Member of Annual Conference - Nita Heilman
Chairperson of Staff/Parish Relations - Diana Hajdu
Trustee Rep -
Chairperson of Finance - Robert Ott
Co-Chairperson of Finance - Betty Meriwether
Treasurer - Emily Bellamy
UMW President - Margaret Fisher
UMM President - Robert Neitzke
Worship Committee Chairperson - Margaret Fisher
Mission & Service Chairperson - Nita Heilman
Recording Secretary -

2019 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson - Margaret Fisher
Chairperson of Finance - Robert Ott
Co-Chairperson of Finance - Betty Meriwether
Chairperson of Trustees -
Chairperson of Staff/Parish Relations - Diana Hajdu
Pastor - Richard Wesley
Lay Leader - Joy Holder
Recording Secretary -



NEWS FROM
ST. BETHLEHEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2201 Old Russellville Pike ~ CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE 37040
Church Office: 931-647-5126
Email: stbumc@gmail.com ~ Website: www.stbumc.com
Senior Pastor: Richard Wesley

January 2019

2019, 2019, 2019, 2019...

Back in the day of writing checks for everything I used to practice writing the new year in late December and early January. I still wrote the wrong year on most checks for a few weeks. It was as though I had a mental block against moving forward. By the end of January, I was a pro at writing the new year.

Here we are in another new year. I write very few checks these days (a book of 25 checks will last me more than a year). It is a reminder that gradual change happens all the time. Sometimes change is good, sometimes not.

Churches also experience gradual changes in many ways, sometimes for the good sometimes not. One of the changes that happen in every congre-

gation is relational. We worship every Sunday with the same people. We enjoy seeing and talking with our friends. This is one of the strengths of congregational life. But this strength can be a detriment if we lose sight of folks not included in our circle of attention.

Maybe there is a difference in being friendly and welcoming. We are a friendly church but does that translate to being a welcoming church? Our church leaders will begin exploring the concept of being a welcoming church in 2019.

Thom S. Rainer is the president and CEO of LifeWay. He is also a pastor and researcher. His research is among the

Continued on back of page

Sunday Schedule:

Traditional Service - 9:00 A.M. ~ Sunday School - 10:00 A.M.

Exploring Life in Christ - 11:00 A.M.

2019, 2019, 2019, 2019...

Continued from front page

most respected when it comes to inviting, welcoming and keeping guests who visit churches. Thom has a new book titled, *"Becoming a Welcoming Church."*

Beginning in January our Executive Council and Church Counsel will read and discuss Thom's new book. Our discussion for January and February is chapter one: *Are We as Welcoming as We Think We Are?* If you would like to join in the discussion we will set aside the first 20 minutes of our Church Council meetings for this discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend Church Council meetings. If you want a copy of the book it is available through Cokesbury, LifeWay, or Amazon. The book retails for \$12.99. If you need or want help obtaining the book feel free to call Ashley in the church office.

~Richard Wesley

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to returning January 8th all rested up! We are looking forward to a visit from Cell Phone Sally this month. It's never too early to learn to dial 911!

When we left it was still officially autumn and now we return to winter! We are hoping for some mild weather so we can still get outside to play! On the other hand some snow would be nice-just not too much (well maybe enough for a snow day).

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and Happy New Year! *~Georgia Dice*

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If the Clarksville Montgomery County School System closes schools for inclement weather, the church office will also be closed, and all church related activities for that day will be cancelled. If students are dismissed early for inclement weather, the office will close at the same time as the schools. If schools are on a morning delay, the office will open accordingly. Sunday Services are not affected by inclement weather, however, we ask that you use your best judgment when deciding to attend morning worship.

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Happy New Year & Blessings to all!

January 1st marks a time when some of us make a New Year's resolution of where we want to make improvements in our daily lives, practices, health or behaviors. Most times those good intentions fall by the wayside within days or weeks following the New Year.

As your finance chair, I've been able to witness your Christian growth through your generous giving over a number of years. Many of those years we also offered an opportunity to profess your commitment to financially support this church's mission ... many times, the written responses received were few in number, but your actions have always spoken

loudly and clearly demonstrated your collective spiritual growth through your generosity to both our church's mission and outreach programs. In addition, your actions have also spoke loudly by your commitment of time and service to our many community initiatives. Because of your 'loud and resolute' responses, we have again met **ALL** of our financial commitments and obligations while continuing to serve our neighbors.

Thank you for your continued generosity, and may the blessings of this Christmas season be with you throughout 2019!

~ Robert Ott

General Fund Giving – **\$3,412** Weekly Average Budgetary Need for 2018

November 4th	\$7,526.00	Oct. 2018 Weekly Avg	\$3,029.00
November 11th	\$1,098.04	Sept. 2018 WeeklyAvg	\$3,045.50
November 18th	\$3,443.00	August 2018 WeeklyAvg	\$3,756.50
November 25th	\$4,937.00	July 2018 WeeklyAvg	\$2,329.64
NOV 2018 Weekly Avg	\$4,251.01	June 2018 WeeklyAvg	\$2,529.50

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."

OFFICER INSTALLATION

Officer installation is Sunday, January 6. We ask that all officers be in attendance. The 2019 Officer List will be also be available on this day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

4 Harriett Silvey

11 Diana Hajdu

17 Lela Ham, Danny Smothers

24 Tracy Jerles, Dolly Tate



PRAYER CONCERNS

Candice Fanning

The Family of Diana Vandercreek

Mary Gillian (Betty Meriwether's Aunt)

Mary Devers

Virginia Page

Sandy Jastrzembki

Eddy Parsons & Family

Those who recognize that God created us for a communal lifestyle rather than an isolated one, show signs of mature Christianity. (From Healthy Congregations Workshop 1).

Growing disciples of Christ for the transformation of our community.

LIFE'S FOR THE LIVING: PART 1

As 2018 comes to a close I can't help but think of the possibilities the new year has to offer. Twelve new chapters to compose and 365 chances to get "it" right.

If it were only that easy; to embrace new possibilities, to get "it" - whatever "it" is - right, then my New Year's resolutions would last well beyond January 2nd. Unfortunately it's not that easy, and so I no longer make New Year's resolutions - there's no point setting myself up for failure. However, there are a few things I would like to live into and accomplish this coming year.

There are new skills and subjects to learn, new places to go and see, and new experiences to be had in general. But before I can successfully do any of those things, I must first learn how to get out of the past and live in the present. I often feel I've spent the majority of my life stuck in the past. I've felt this even more so since my brother died two and a half years ago. The past, though painful, is comfortable. It's what I know, it's what I'm accustomed

to, and I know what to expect.

I don't like surprises and I don't like the unknown, and those are two of the biggest obstacles I face when trying to live the here and now or trust that whatever the future holds is good.

So, how do I learn to get out of the past and live into the life that God is calling me into?

That's the million dollar question, isn't it? That's also the question I hope to answer, or come close to answering in 2019.

~Ashley Kettle

After my brother, Todd, passed away I lost interest in many things; writing was one of those things. I decided I not only wanted, but needed to write again on a regular basis. It is my goal to write a 12-part series about my journey through 2019. I want to share my struggles and successes as I learn to navigate through life in the present, not leaving the past behind completely, but rather using it as a learning tool. I hope you will join me in my journey.

WARMTH IN WINTER 2019



Warmth in Winter 2019 featured speaker:

Rev. Samuel Yun

Also known as P. Sam, Rev. Samuel Yun is currently the planting pastor for EMBRACECHURCH, a new faith community in Northern California that is reaching mostly unchurched and dis-churched individuals with "the hunch that life with God is better than life without God". His duties include preaching, vision casting, raising up leaders, counseling and setting the primary spiritual heartbeat of the community. He is a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary (M. Div. 1995) and has been in the ordained ministry for 23 years. P. Sam is father of two, lover of all sports with a net, follower of Jesus, and immensely broken but constantly healed and strengthened by the love and grace of God. When not engaged in his all-time favorite activity (preaching!), he loves to spend extended times with his two amazing sons, Philip and Evan, watching marathon episodes of The Office, engaging in a little Yun family jam session or pretending to be a baller in the gym.

A couple of his most important theological thought/faith convictions:

- * "God is great...here and now... and all the time... beyond what we can actually imagine."
- * "If God can love the likes of me, God can love anyone."

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 30 10am Combined Worship	Dec 31 - New Year's Eve Office Closed	1 - New Year's Day Office Closed	2 10am Design Team 11am Ann's Closet 7:30pm N.A.	3 2pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm N.A.	4 Office Closed 6:30pm Girl Scouts	5 6pm N.A.
6 - Officer Installation 9am Traditional Service 10am Sunday School 11am Exploring Life in Christ	7 6:30pm Exec. Council	8 10:30am UMW Day Group 6pm Cub Scouts	9 10am Design Team 10am FUEL 5:45pm F.R.O.G. 6pm Bible Study 7pm Choir 7:30pm N.A.	10 6:30pm Trustees Mtg. 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm N.A.	11 Office Closed Room In The Inn	12 6pm N.A.
13 9am Traditional Service 10am Sunday School 11am Exploring Life in Christ	14 4pm Nursery School Board Meeting 6:30pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting	15 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Sewing Circle	16 10am Design Team 10am FUEL 11am Ann's Closet 5:45pm F.R.O.G. 6pm Bible Study 7pm Choir 7:30pm N.A.	17 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm N.A.	18 Office Closed 6:30pm Girl Scouts	19 6pm N.A.
20 9am Traditional Service 10am Sunday School 11am Exploring Life in Christ	21 Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday.	22 6pm Cub Scouts	23 10am Design Team 10am FUEL 5:45pm F.R.O.G. 6pm Bible Study 7pm Choir 7:30pm N.A.	24 6pm Worship Mtg. 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm N.A.	25 Office Closed Room In The Inn	26 4pm N.A. 6pm N.A.
27 9am Traditional Service 10am Sunday School 11am Exploring Life in Christ	28 6:30pm Laity Club	29 6pm Cub Scouts	30 10am Design Team 10am FUEL 5:45pm F.R.O.G. 6pm Bible Study 7pm Choir 7:30pm N.A.	31 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm N.A.	Feb 1 Office Closed 6:30pm Girl Scouts	Feb 2 9am Quilts of Valor (National Sewing Day)