

The Brooke ~ February ~ 2019

Dear Church Family,

This month, the global United Methodist Church will hold a special session in St. Louis on Feb 23-26 to, as the UMC describes it, “focus on the issue of human sexuality and church unity with the goals of ending distracting and mission-compromising disagreement about how to be in ministry with LGBTQI people. The hope is that decisions made will allow the 2020 General Conference to focus on mission and the next steps for the church’s unified global witness.”

We know that for as long as the Christian church has existed, there have been lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and intersex people leading and serving and following God’s call on their lives, and for most of church history those identities have not been named or publicly debated. What this conference will discuss is how our church laws will acknowledge or complicate that reality, and how faithful United Methodists can continue to be in connection with one another even while we have theological differences.

In 2016, a group of thirty-two United Methodists from around the world was called together by the Council of Bishops and designated the Commission on a Way Forward, who proposed three different plans, each offering different possibilities for the church to stay united or divide, and to change our rules in the Book of Discipline. The One Church Plan, sometimes called the “big tent” plan, was recommended by the majority of the Council of Bishops, although no plan will be official until it has been debated, amended, and voted on by the General Conference, the body composed of lay and clergy representatives from all conferences. You can find more information about this and other proposed plans by visiting <http://www.umcom.org/news/q-a-2019-special-session-of-the-general-conference> or asking us to print those pages out for you in the office.

I want to personally acknowledge what a difficult discussion this is for those in our church family who have been hurt by the discrimination of the United Methodist Church, and I deeply apologize for the times when you have been made to feel any less than the beloved child of God that you are. Jesus taught us to love without limit and to fight with those who have been marginalized. That has been and will continue to be the work of this church, and I am proud of and grateful to all those of you who follow Jesus’s example, especially when it is difficult.

We will be talking much more about the General Conference in the coming weeks, particularly on February 10th as I preach on “Prayer and Sex,” discussing the Christian church’s history of attempting to regulate sexual behavior and where we are now. On February 24th we’ll pray together for General Conference and reflect on the contemporary prophets who have moved the Methodist Church through many other social and political issues, and on March 3rd when we know the outcome of the conference, we’ll join together in preparing for a future in which, as Bishop Sally Dyck continually reminds us, we are still called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

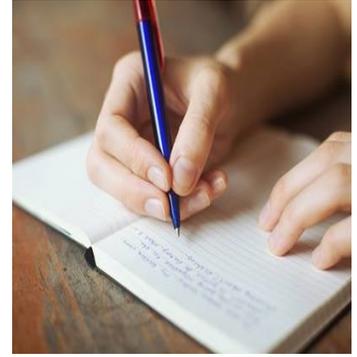
Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions about the General Conference, and I’ll do my best to answer them. I’ll be watching the conference online via livestream and checking in with other clergy to learn as much as we can about how the decision will impact local churches. On Wednesday, February 27th, we’ll have a Q&A at the church from 4pm-5pm where I’ll share what decision was reached and what we know so far. In the meantime, please pray for the delegates from the Northern Illinois Conference, that God would bless them with wisdom and courage to lead us.

On a personal note, Kyle and I will be visiting his family in England February 13th through the 22nd, and there will be notes in the bulletin that week about who to contact for pastoral care should you need to speak with a pastor. When we are gone on February 17th, the church is very fortunate to be welcoming Rockford Urban Ministries Director Stan Campbell to preach and share a word on the social justice work of this important organization. I look forward to hearing all about it when I return!

-Pastor Violet

Our Lenten Devotional Project Needs You!

Lent is a season of reflection and spiritual discipline, and this year The Brooke is trying something new together. We're creating a Lenten devotional booklet to share with the community, and we need your wisdom and insights to share the love of God in your own words. The office will be printing copies of a booklet with 47 devotionals (one for each day of Lent including Sundays) for you to share at your workplace, where you volunteer, with your neighbors, at local businesses, or with anyone you can think of.



To submit a devotional, please write a reflection of 250 words or less on any subject, as well as a short prayer and your name, and drop it off in the office or email it to brookeroadumc@outlook.com by February 17th. This is a great opportunity to invite friends or relatives to contribute a reflection too, whether or not they attend church.

Any subject you feel moved to write about will be wonderful, but if you're looking for inspiration, here are a few prompts:

- When did God get you through a tough time? How did you know God was with you?
- What does hope mean to you?
- What temptations have you been able to overcome and what was that experience like?
- If a particular Bible verse or song lyric has been comforting or inspiring to you, share that and write a reflection on it.
- Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness. When have you been in the wilderness? How did you get out?
- If you were writing to someone who didn't know the story of Jesus's life, what story would you start with?
- What does being a Christian mean to you?

Thank you for participating in this project and we can't wait to share the final product with the community!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

On behalf of my daughter, Diane Zwirblis, her husband, Don, myself and all of my family, we cannot thank you enough for all of your prayers, love, and caring. We had a Christmas Miracle! Her oncologist started her on a new medication just before Thanksgiving and the PET scan done on the Tuesday before Christmas revealed that her bone cancer is GONE! Furthermore it confirmed that the kidney cancer did not spread just as her surgeon thought after he removed her malignant kidney. Our joy and gratitude is overwhelming!! Due to the wonders of modern medicine, a brilliant oncologist, a skilled surgeon, and the fervent prayers of family, friends, all of you and total strangers, and the mercy of our loving God who heard our prayers, Di is free of two of the three cancers she has been afflicted with.

I have always believed in miracles, but this is the best one I've ever witnessed! So to those of you who are, or have loved ones ill and suffering, I urge you to never give up. Keep on praying. God really does hear our prayers. And miracles really do happen. I know in my heart that all of your prayers really made a difference, and I pledge to you that our prayers will be offered to God on your behalf.

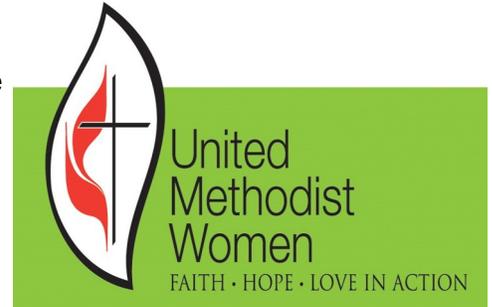
*With grateful hearts,
Ann Phillips and her whole family*

Diabetes Group

The Diabetes Group is taking the months of January and February off.

United Methodist Women

At the January meeting, our guest, Mary Cacioppi, Executive Director of One Body Collaboratives, gave a presentation about the agency. As a member church, Brooke Road participates in the Gap Ministries by providing paper products to selected clients each month and will soon participate in Compassionate Impacts when Pastor Violet and Lori are trained as administrators. This will allow us to select needs we would like to fulfill for our neighbors facing a hardship.



A brief update from our outgoing treasurer, Nancy Wickson:

Since Nancy has been treasurer, UMW has moved from fundraising events as the source of income to pledging. Pledges received in 2018 were \$1245. With that and our extra-mile giving plus donations and funerals gave us \$3049.52 to use. Our Pledge to Mission (goes to district and conference) was \$650; Thank Offering was \$278.09; Call to Prayer and Self-Denial was \$86.18; and Gift to Mission was \$135.00. To local, conference and national mission we gave \$750. We purchase the Upper Room devotional booklets for the church and supply some of the paper goods used. Thank you, Nancy, for your valuable service. Our new treasurer is Lyla Flynn.

The February 12, 2019 meeting will be at 1 PM in the Adult Classroom. Pastor Violet will be presenting about the Commission on The Way Forward. Where are we in this process? Our Hostess is Sandy McCallum. Any and everyone is welcome.

Be Just Be Green

Please, no Styrofoam products, and remember to recycle plastic and paper. Recycle bins are located in Wesley Hall outside the kitchen, in the narthex by the table, and in the office behind the door.

Fellowship

HELP WANTED

Each Sunday, Fellowship treats are provided after Worship. For the past several months, Mona Wilson volunteered to clean up afterward. Now we need a volunteer to serve in this ministry of cleaning up. See Sharon Semple or Joella Warner for details. Thank you.

Knowing Our Why
Knowing Our How
Knowing Our Way
Turning the Tide

Laity Convocation 2019

Saturday, February 9 ~ 9:00am-12:30pm

New Lenox UMC, 339 W. Haven Ave., New Lenox, IL.

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, Director of the Missional Church Consultation Initiative for the West Ohio Conference

- **Participate** in Kibbey's "Breakthrough Prayer" initiative - what happens when a congregation unites to pray collectively and consistently for God to break through in new and miraculous ways?
- **Come learn** skills of making an urgent case for change, shifting your church's culture to "ubiquitous discipleship," identifying and deploying new leaders, and other key crucial catalysts.
- **Discuss** "The Way Forward" and the special session of General Conference at two breakout sessions.
- **Continue the discussion** on Breakthrough Prayer at a third breakout with Rev. Kibbey.
- **Stay for lunch** and visit with friends and continue the conversation if you have time.



Register online soon at www.umcnic.org/calendar/laity-convocation-1

Cost: \$10/person- \$40/church

Copies of Rev. Kibbey's book *Flood Gates* will be available for sale at the event.

February

Anniversaries

1st Gene & Sharon Semple
11th Lloyd & Charlene Mason

Birthdays

3rd	Becky Groff	21st	Jerry Johnson
4th	Jan Cook	23rd	Victoria O'Connell
	Joanne McKinney	27th	Sandy Moderhack
6th	Ann Phillips	28th	Jill Below
16th	Lyla Flynn		John Dyke
19th	Kim Winger		

Our Military

Matt Cowan, Matt Crabtree, Scott Dickson, Thomas Helser, Will Hoyum, Ian Long, Joshua Mattson, Jonathan Modler, Jerry Nettles, Stacy Huser, Christine Tornow, Tommy Turnure, Ryan & Kate (Vowles) Levack

Family and Friends

Boots Baxter
Chris Beebe
Teresa Beebe
Rick Bried
Dorothy Carpenter
Shelby Coleman
Char Doyle
John & Hazel Dyke

Ardene Friest
Elizabeth Jacobson
Jerry Johnson
Harvey May
Jackie Parod
John Pippel
Vicky Quist
John Sauer

Charlene Taylor
Laurece Thompson
Phil & Vivian Schwab
Bob Westlund
Maxine Zolk
Diane Zwirblis
Pastor Violet & Kyle

Monthly Finance Update

The Finance Committee has provided the following Current Fund information:

December 2018 income: \$24,494.21 **December 2018 disbursements:** \$12,026.38
(includes giftwrapping proceeds)

This information is always available by contacting
Judy Parks (Finance Chair) or Sandy McCallum (Treasurer).

Donations

If you purchase supplies for church, please submit item/amount to office (whether or not you want to be reimbursed). This will give a true picture of operation costs.

February 2019

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 8:00am - 12:30pm Rockford District Training at Freeport Faith UMC
<u>3</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>7</u> 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 9:00am SPRC 9:00am - 12:30pm Laity Convocation at New Lenox UMC
<u>10</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> 1:00pm UMW 5:30pm Finance 6:30pm Trustees	<u>13</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>14</u> 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> 10:30am Mona's Paper Angel Closet 6:00pm Councill	<u>20</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>21</u> 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> 9:00am Breakfast Group At Alpine View 4:00pm General Conference Q & A 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>28</u> 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts		

Our Mission at The Brooke Is.

to transform lives
through faith, love, and service.

Our Vision for The Brooke is.

to be a transforming congregation
of believers to serve the community,
renew lives, and build faith.

**BROOKE ROAD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**1404 BROOKE ROAD
ROCKFORD, IL 61109**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor Violet Johnicker

Phone 847-651-4857
Email violet@the-brooke.org
Address 4949 Radnor Drive
Rockford, IL 61109

Church Office

Monday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Tuesday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Friday **CLOSED**

Phone 815-398-8914
Email brookeroadumc@outlook.com
Website www.the-brooke.org
Address 1404 Brooke Road
Rockford, IL 61109

*If you feel like you're
in deep water,
trust the
One who walked on it.*

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship ~ 10:00am
Children's Sunday School during Worship
Nursery available for NB - 4 years

Fellowship ~ Following Worship