



The Main Street MESSENGER

VOLUME 68 | NO.7 | JULY 2022

Dear friends,

I think of how I have come to love the people of Main Street Church. I have come to love the diversity of people that make up the congregation and the community around our church. I think that is what makes the church so special, the way people of different backgrounds are welcome and made to feel connected. Our backgrounds bring with them different ways of understanding our world and the scripture that we hold so dear. John Wesley understood this concept, and in fact in his sermon on the Catholic Spirit, Sermon #39 he said: "If thine heart is as my heart, if thou lovest God and all mankind, I ask no more: give me thine hand." He also recognized in this sermon how we as people of God can have differing views on scripture.

We don't all believe exactly the same, and there will be differences in the way we see and understand the Bible. The question is, can you live in community with people who may not "see" the way you "see", but do love God and love neighbor with all their heart, just like you. This has really been the debate in the United Methodist Church since it was formed in 1968. In 1972, exclusionary language was added to the Book of Discipline (the UMC's doctrinal Standards) to indicate "that homosexuality was incompatible with Christian teaching." Since then the church has struggled with how we can include ALL people regardless of sexual orientation. And now, this struggle has come to a head. Here is a brief, and very basic history of the last 40 months.

- In St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019 the United Methodist Church held a special Called General Conference (the only body of the United Methodist Church that can change the Book of Discipline). Where basically two plans were considered, The One Church Plan, and Traditional Plan.

- The "Traditional Plan" was passed, in part, due to the international delegation. Meaning: our current statements about homosexuality, same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ persons have not fundamentally changed. The Traditional Plan received 438 yes votes (53 percent) and 384 no votes (47 percent). Those results indicate the diversity of thought United Methodists have on these issues. This also means, it is likely there are people in our church who agree with the outcome and almost as many others who do not.
- Secondly, a disaffiliation plan, sometimes called an "exit plan," was also passed. This provides guidelines for congregations who wish to leave The United Methodist Church "for reasons of conscience" regarding issues of human sexuality.
- The One Church Plan would have kept the church from splitting, and allowed for a wider variety of beliefs around human sexuality.

Following the called General Conference, representatives from the various United Methodist groups, (Traditionalist, Centrist, and Progressives) began to meet to find a way forward in the current climate. They produced a nine-page plan, dated Dec. 17, 2019, that was mediated by Kenneth Feinberg, a well-known lawyer who oversaw the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and other high-profile compensation programs. The plan largely focused on the distribution of financial assets. The plan was to be approved at the 2020 General Conference. However, because of the global pandemic, the 2020 General Conference was canceled.

The General Conference is an international event, and in 2020 international travel was still very complicated. It would have excluded many of the African and Asian delegates of the United Methodist Church. All of this led to the traditionalist, mostly a group known as the Wesley Covenant Association, moving forward with the formation of a new, more traditional denomination, the Global Methodist Church. United Methodist Churches wishing to join this new denomination can use the "disaffiliation plan" approved at the 2019 Called General Conference to leave the United Methodist Church.

The majority of the United Methodist Church in the United States, is trying to move forward in a graceful way to be more inclusive and yet provide room for a variety of beliefs about human sexuality. This is a conversation we at Main Street United Methodist Church need to have, so we have decided to meet in neighborhood groups. This will be a time of "Dialogue & Dessert." The detailed schedule for these meetings is on pages 2 and 6 of the newsletter and on the table in the Atrium. Please come prepared to have open and honest conversation. If you have questions, please send them to me in advance so I have an opportunity to prepare properly for them. As I conclude I remember Paul's words in Ephesians 4:1-6, ***I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.***

Grace and peace,
Pastor Rich

Relationships: The Sign of a Healthy Church

Opportunities for building
relationships this summer!

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- **JULY 24-28, 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
- **DINNER SERVED AT 6:00**
- **FOLLOWED BY "GIVE US THIS DAY" - ADVENTURE INTO "THE LORD'S PRAYER"**

We will have something for everyone including a study for parents, music, crafts, food and fun! Please contact Holly Richardson if you would like to volunteer. Sign-up to attend in the Atrium now.

The Lord's Prayer

PRAY TOGETHER

Jesus said, "therefore when you pray, pray like this: Our father..."

(Matthew 6:9)

Join us for a study of the Lord's Prayer beginning July 19 and lasting 6 weeks, every Tuesday from 7-8pm in person and via Zoom. We will be using a book and short video by Adam Hamilton. Books available in the church office but you do not need to purchase a book to participate. Weekly attendance is not necessary. You can join anytime.

Led by - Ralph Branchaud and Pat Collier

Sign-up in the Atrium or call the church office to register, 757-539-8751.

CARE FOR EACH OTHER



The Congregational Care Team represents our church "family" as Care Givers for Christ. We call, visit, provide a meal, or send a card to those in need; we provide comfort as we reflect the love of Christ we all share. We need volunteers for the following areas:

- Send Cards
- Make calls
- Take a meal
- Be a neighborhood group leader
- Take communion to nursing homes

Fill out a card on the table in the Atrium to be a part of this vital ministry!

MEET TOGETHER



Our Neighborhood Connection groups will gather at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for "Dialogue & Dessert" with Pastor Rich. The purpose of the gatherings is to discuss how we, as a church, can navigate the issues that we face in today's world and in our church. If you cannot attend on the designated date, you are welcome to come to any of the other scheduled gatherings. You and other church members in your area will receive a postcard invitation. We look forward to these informal talk sessions. Meeting dates are posted on the last page, and on a table in the Atrium.

GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER



One short trip (less than an hour) to the church will assure you:

- have a spot in the new directory,
- receive one complimentary 8x10 family portrait, and
- receive a copy of the new directory

Even better news...the directory will be accessible digitally!

Our photography sessions will be held:

Wednesday, August 10, 2:00 – 8:30 pm

Thursday, August 11, 2:00 – 8:30 pm

Friday, August 12, 2:00 – 8:30 pm

Saturday, August 13, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm

Sign-up process is easy and available online and in-person in the Atrium on Sunday between services.

To sign-up online visit www.ucdir.com use CHURCH CODE: va132, PASSWORD: photos

Volunteers needed to help with hosting photo sessions.

Contact Holly Richardson to volunteer or sign-up in the Atrium.

JULY 2022 [BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES]

[BIRTHDAYS]

7/1 Lynn Cross
7/1 Jeffrey Forman
7/1 Claire Taliaferro
7/1 Bruce Salisbury
7/2 Karen Williams
7/2 Blake Baker
7/2 Sara Brooks
7/2 Emily Brown
7/3 Lily Garner
7/3 Dylan Pruitt
7/3 Annette Toner
7/4 Cassie Venable
7/4 Barbara Rayburn
7/4 Adam Joerger
7/5 Mary Anne Barnes
7/6 David Forman
7/6 Rick Van Orden
7/7 Martin Sweat
7/7 Austin Drewnowski
7/8 James Caton
7/8 Blake Wagner
7/9 Robert Baker

7/9 Grace Saunders
7/9 Terrence Knight
7/11 Wes King
7/11 Alexis Whalley
7/15 Gail Fisher
7/18 Mary Keith Floyd
7/18 Ann Walker
7/18 Linda Argust
7/18 Caroline Venable
7/19 Monica Lynn Eure
7/20 Carson Birdsong
7/20 Pam Huber
7/20 TJ Argust
7/21 Ellen Saunders
7/21 Jay Butler
7/21 Annie Scott
7/22 Patricia Forman
7/23 Christopher Caron
7/23 Ken Williams
7/23 Teresa Hardee
7/24 Joseph Verdirame
7/25 Annette Bailey
7/25 William Powell
7/26 Nancy Braford

7/26 Chris Smith
7/26 Sarah Higinbotham
7/26 Joseph Askew
7/27 Iris Mamlin
7/27 Scott Carr
7/28 Laura Mizelle
7/29 Kate Holland
7/29 Annabeth Lynn Kashner
7/30 Suzanne Pruitt
7/30 Sara Ray
7/30 Sinai Little
7/31 Ruby Brinkley
7/31 Doug Ward

[ANNIVERSARIES]

7/2 Chuck & Irene Fisher
7/9 David & Shirley Baldwin
7/9 David & Cheri Anthony
7/11 John & Ann Shappell
7/18 Bernard & Iris Mamlin
7/23 Brent & Ann Brown
7/30 Harold & June Barrett
7/31 Eley & Nicole Duke, III



to
HENRY G. SIMPSON
for his unwavering dedication to our
Music Ministry
through over 75 years of joyful
participation in the Choirs of
Main Street United Methodist
Church.

PRAYER LIST UPDATE

PRAYER LIST: 6/22/22: Carolyn Horst, Ricky Nelson, Dara Crutcher, Joseph Medeiros, Becky Harper Owens, C.J. Johnson, Audrey Beck, Brooke & Susan Pruden, Marie Bowman, Pat Huber, James Butler, Denise Jackson, Roberta Tripp, Nicholas Medeiros, Joanna Beasley

ONGOING: Steve Clark, Heather Lawrence, Bob & Leila Tompert, Erin & Michael McPherson and Family, Carolyn Davis, Bob Callis, Liam Grant, Herman Terrell, Harold Wald, Louise Elliott, Stan Waterfield, Helen Barsch, Martha Callis, Beverly Drapalik, Randy Hicks, Jim Dowaliby

SYMPATHY: The Family of Ken Johnson; The Family of Martha Harry Young

CANCER: Pam Askew, Linda Argust, Ray

Holland, Al Bremer, Diane Liles, Linda Harper, Faye Askew, Rod Rodrigues, Melaine Medeiros, Carol Coleman, Mary Lou Hedgepeth, Julie Nance, John Nodeen, Richard J. Peko, Roland Word, Shannon Rivera, Juel Carr, Nancy Spring Parker, Anita McLemore, Gary Graham, Glen Harrell, Ralph Knapp, Judy Gales, Eli Dowaliby, Lynn Foster, Brian Clark, Marea Bishop, Jay Robbins, Filmore Brinkley, Kenny Hirsch, Kevin Driscoll, Jennifer Skipper, Lorrie Staples, Carol Lynne Shotton, Tuffy Braithwhite, Donald Blount, Bev Rooker

HOMEBOUND: Jean Sutphin

ASSISTED LIVING: Ray Shamburger, Frances Kelly

OUR NATION AND WORLD: Military Troops & Families: Chris Smith, Anthony Hickler, Adam Waddell, Kent Brooks, Bryanna Grant, James Russell III, Kristi Kilborn, Wesley Linder, Duncan Bevan, TJ Argust; First Responders; CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk); Our Schools; Main Street Day Care & Preschool; Workplaces & Homes; social justice, unity and peace; students, parents, teachers and administrators in local schools; safety and well being of our college students and professors; our President and national leaders; Volodymyr Zelensky

JULY 2022 [CALENDAR OF EVENTS]

SATURDAY, JULY 2

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, JULY 3

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am In-Person & Virtual Worship

MONDAY, JULY 4

OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, JULY 5

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

2:00 pm Staff Meeting

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, JULY 7

6:00 am Men's Study

7:00 pm Boy Scout Committee

7:00 pm First Neighborhood meeting

SATURDAY, JULY 9

11:30 am Eagle Scout Ceremony

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, JULY 10

YOUTH MISSION TRIP BEGINS

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am In-Person & Virtual Worship

MONDAY, JULY 11

7:00 pm Church Council meeting

7:00 pm LPM Meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 12

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

2:00 pm Staff Meeting

8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, JULY 14

6:00 am Men's Study

FRIDAY, JULY 15

YOUTH MISSION TRIP ENDS

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, JULY 17

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am In-Person & Virtual Worship

MONDAY, JULY 18

6:30 pm Girl Scouts

TUESDAY, JULY 19

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

7:00 pm Lord's Prayer Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

1:30 pm Staff Meeting

8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, JULY 21

6:00 am Men's Study

7:00 pm Second Neighborhood Meeting

SATURDAY, JULY 23

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

8:30 am Worship and

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am In-Person & Virtual Worship

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School Begins

MONDAY, JULY 25

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School

7:00 pm Trustees

TUESDAY, JULY 26

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

2:00 pm Staff Meeting

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School

8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, JULY 28

6:00 am Men's Study

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School

SATURDAY, JULY 30

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, JULY 31

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am In-Person & Virtual Worship



JULY BIBLE READINGS

1 Proverbs 4 – 7

2 Proverbs 8 – 11

3 Proverbs 12 – 14

4 Proverbs 15 – 17

5 Proverbs 18 – 20

6 Proverbs 21 – 23

7 Proverbs 24 – 26

8 Proverbs 27 – 29

9 Proverbs 30 – 31

10 Ecclesiastes 1 – 4

11 Ecclesiastes 5 – 8

12 Ecclesiastes 9 – 12

13 Song of Solomon 1 – 4

14 Song of Solomon 5 – 8

15 Isaiah 1 – 3

16 Isaiah 4 – 8

17 Isaiah 9 – 11

18 Isaiah 12 – 14

19 Isaiah 15 – 19

20 Isaiah 20 – 24

21 Isaiah 25 – 28

22 Isaiah 29 – 31

23 Isaiah 32 – 34

24 Isaiah 35 – 37

25 Isaiah 38 – 40

26 Isaiah 41 – 43

27 Isaiah 44 – 46

28 Isaiah 47 – 49

29 Isaiah 50 – 52

30 Isaiah 53 – 56

31 Isaiah 57 – 59



To My *Amazing* CHURCH FAMILY

There are no words that even come close to expressing how I feel. The one that I keep saying over and over is “WOW!” Perhaps **WOW** can be an acronym for “**W**ith **O**verwhelming **W**onder!” because I am absolutely in awe of all you have done for me. The beautiful cards, emails, calls and one-on-one conversations...the amazing Pentecost worship service... the delicious and magnificently decorated luncheon with so many of you there to share it with me...the resolutions that are so kind and humbling...the very touching words that were spoken and the songs sung during both worship and the luncheon that were so beautiful and meaningful...and the absolutely incredible gifts!!!! WOW! You have no idea what a blessing you have been to me these 33 years. Through the best of times and the worst of times, you have been my family, the Body of Christ at work. And God has been so faithful. God literally opened a window for me when I was barely 14 years old, and God has been opening doors and windows for me ever since. One of the best doors was the door to Main Street Church when our ministry together began in February 1989.

As most of you know by now, my favorite passage of scripture is Proverbs 3: 5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart...” Music speaks to many of us as nothing else can do. So I would like to recommend two songs to you, both bearing the title “Through It All”. The lyrics alone are very powerful, but for many, hearing them sung will mean even more. You can easily find them on Youtube. The first of these songs was written by Andraé Crouch and sung by Ray Boltz: “Through it all, I’ve learned to trust in Jesus, I’ve learned to trust in God.” The second is written and sung by Hillsong. Part of the lyrics include:

“You (God) are forever in my life. You see me through the seasons, cover me with your hand, and lead me in your righteousness. And I look to you, and I wait on you. I will sing to you, Lord, a hymn of love for your faithfulness to me. I’m carried in everlasting arms. You’ll never let me go, through it all.”

I can tell you with absolute certainty that God has walked with me, and often carried me, through it all. And God has used many of you in countless ways as the heart and hands of Christ. I pray that God through the power of the Holy Spirit will reach down and light the fire of God’s love in your hearts in ways that you could never imagine! There is much work to be done in this world, and there are many in Main Street Church who feel this fire beginning to burn. Fan the flame! Be the Church of Jesus Christ, through it all, through whatever comes! Jesus says in the Gospel of John 16:33 (emphasis mine) – “In this world you WILL have tribulation (trouble, affliction, suffering); but take courage, I have overcome the world!” Believe it! “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.....and He will make your paths straight.”

God has never stopped meeting our needs at Main Street Church, providing the people and resources to carry on God’s work, even through the worst of times. And now, God has sent exactly the pastor and staff to take us into the next phase of God’s plan. There is no doubt that every one of them has come to us for such a time as this. Please support them and pray for them without ceasing! Every single person in this great church has also been called by God to be right here, right now. And even though I know in my heart it is the right time for me to take a new path, God’s love will always bind us together. You have honored me beyond belief, and I am deeply touched and grateful. But there are SO many people who carry on the work of this church! Many of them are behind the scenes and prefer to keep it that way. If we all do our best, God will do the rest. God has proved this over and over. You have my never-ending prayers. May the Lord bless and keep you, through it all!

With much love and many blessings,

Chris

Church Staff & Contact Information

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST— RETIRED

Chris Ward | cbward114@aol.com

Main Street Day Care & Preschool

Office: 757.539.3431 | Fax: 757.539.7566
www.mainstreetdaycare.org

DAY CARE/PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Heather Abbott | habbott@mainstumc.org



The Main Street MESSENGER

OF MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- JULY 24-28, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- DINNER SERVED AT 6:00
- FOLLOWED BY "GIVE US THIS DAY" -
ADVENTURE INTO "THE LORD'S PRAYER"

MISSION FOCUS - FEED THE NEED

We will have a food drive for Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center each night. You can help us fill their truck by bringing nonperishable food items anytime.



Details on page 2

Neighborhood CONNECTION

MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR

July 7 & 21, August 4 and September 1

Details page 2