

THE Messenger **Main Street**

United Methodist church

VOLUME 64 | NO. 6

JUNE 2018

It's Summer Time at Main Street. Come, Participate, Enjoy!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL | JUNE 18 - 22 | 9:00 AM - NOON

Designed for children age 4 through those who have completed the 5th grade.

Come join Hope, Beacon, Rae, Guac, Moe, and all our friends as we explore Shipwrecked!

We'll sing songs, play games, make crafts, have fun, and find out that whenever we feel stranded and far away from the comforts of home, we can be RESCUED BY JESUS!

Registration is available for participants and volunteers! To sign up online, go to the church website, then Upcoming Events and then to Vacation Bible School 2018.

Registration Forms are also available in the Atrium.

WWW.MAINSTUMC.ORG





PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD



We are One in Christ

UMCprays.org • A UMC Prayer Community

*Each of us has the opportunity to fast weekly and to pray daily with the **Council of Bishops** in preparation for the Called General Conference in February, 2019. After you read this article, please turn to *The Main Thing* at Main Street on the back page for further information.*

In 2016 at the United Methodist General Conference, a 428-405 vote, authorized the Bishops to form a commission to help them avoid a denominational breakup over homosexuality.

From January 2017 until May 2018, the 32-member **Commission on a Way Forward** met almost monthly and received periodic feedback from the Council of Bishops. Three bishops served as commission moderators facilitating discussion. Serving as commission members were equal numbers of laity and clergy (geographically and age diverse) and nine bishops from all over the world. Finding common ground is no easy task in a denomination whose 12.5 million-membership stretches from countries where same-gender marriage is legal to countries where same-gender activity is a crime.

In the Virginia Conference, Bishop Lewis held “Chat and Chew” gatherings across the Districts for discussion among lay people and clergy. Main Street UMC was asked to attend February 17, 2018, shortly after Pastor Myrtle’s death.

What is the debate over? At present, the United Methodist Church’s **official stances on homosexuality** declare the practice of homosexuality “incompatible with Christian teaching, “prohibit clergy from officiating at same-gender unions” and preclude the ordination of “self-avowed, practicing” gay clergy. (Book of Discipline, para 304.3) However, some pastors and conferences have been defying these prohibitions. (This is not the first time in church history that “civil disobedience” has been used to advocate for changes in Church doctrine and polity.)

The Commission presented three possible models:

- Traditionalist plan - would maintain the denomination’s restrictions and put greater emphasis on enforcement.
- One-Church model - would remove current restrictions and leave questions of ordination and marriage closer to the conference and local-church levels. (not fully fleshed out yet.)
- Multi-branch model - would allow conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation. The connectional conferences would align based on theology or perspective on LGBTQ ministry — be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination’s constitution.

On May 4, 2018 the Bishops recommended the **One Church model** but it was not unanimous. The plan would remove the restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality in the Book of Discipline, the denomination’s policy book. The plan also adds assurances to pastors and conferences who in good conscience cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy that they don’t have to do so. Central conferences — church regions in Africa, Asia and Europe — could maintain current restrictions. All three plans will be submitted to the Called General Conference in February, 2019. Delegates to the 2019 General Conference are the ones who attended in 2016. Full details of the plans will be available by July 8, 2018.



RECENT PRAYER: 06/03 Janet Wunderlich, Sandra Leggett Wilson, Mary Wirts, Joseph Medeiros, Corey Mathis, Matt Hamrick, Caroline Simmons, Sean Alan Jackson, Marie Kennedy, Phyllis Pruden, Alice Johnson

ONGOING: Willis "Corky" Davis, Carrie Hill, Steve Clark, Bob Walton, Sylvia Funkhouser, Bob Catlett, John and Kate Reilly, Heather Lawrence, Leila Tompert, Gloria & Beverly Bredemeyer, Ferebee Bowman, Michael McPherson and Family, Shellee Stevens, Lee Bowman, Tommy Hines, Valeria Webb, Lauren Johnson, Lucas Lawrence

SYMPATHY: Family of Rev. Janet Seay; Family of Bertha Harper (mother of Janice Harper); Family of Dr. Winston M. Browne, Jr.

CANCER: Janis Greene, Betty Sowell, Kate Rhoads, Brenda Atkins, Ralph Knapp, Nick Cleary, Wilma Babich, Juel Carr, Ed Barber, Pam Askew, Linda Argust, Ray Holland, Midge Sanchez, Judy Duonela Vicars, Johnny Hardy, Thomas Burnett, Todd Walton, James Blair, Cheri Lane, Phil Beck, Margaret Heuberger, Al Bremer, Sally Gum Palmer, Diane Liles, Majdah Schiavi, Linda Harper, Faye Askew, Yvonne Lovingood, Carolyn Barnes, Tami Wyse, Melaine Mederios, Lois Barker, Judene Hartless, Russell Wilson, Joan Byrd, Connie Brooks, Angela Seed, Audrey Kent, Lisa Copeland, Dave O'Neill, David Holloway, Judy Calfee, Ed Murphy, David Hollowell, Craig Holland

SKILLED CARE: Eunice Hedgepeth, Bill Gallant, Bill Cloe

HOMEBOUND: Melanie French, Jean Sutphin

ASSISTED LIVING: Colette Ballard, Boo Ballard, Susan Rivenbark

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Main Street United Methodist Church; Our sister churches on the James River District; Pastor Ellen Comstock; Church Staff; Lay Leadership (Lay Leader: Bo Browne; Sunday School Teachers; Bible Studies); United Methodist Church Worldwide (VA Annual Conference, Bishop Sharma Lewis, Superintendent Rob Colwell, District & Conference Staff), Missionaries & Mission Sites, John Elmore (Chile Covenant Mission Project Director); Friends of Barnabas; CRU - Stephanie & Quin Strouse

OUR NATION AND WORLD: Military Troops & Families: Adam Balint, Chris Smith, Dr. Michael Johnston, Anthony Hickler, Cedric Dedeaux, Hunter Pietrowski, Adam Salsbury, Adam Waddell, Kent Brooks, Christy Whitten, Brian Mouton, Mike Spangenburg, Bryanna Grant, James Russell, III, Kristi Kilborn, Will Crow, Wesley Linder, Duncan Bevan; Children in Poverty; Police, Fire & Rescue Workers; CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk); Our Schools (Teachers & Administrators, Staff & Volunteers, Students & their families), Main Street Day Care & Preschool; Workplaces & Homes; The Marketplace; Missionaries; Domestic Violence victims



HEALTH KITS *For Conference*

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF 50 HEALTH KITS FOR CONFERENCE

This year Main Street UMC will assemble **Health Kits** that will be taken to Annual Conference in June. Below are the specific instructions for each kit. Please follow these directions.

HEALTH KITS: Place the items in a 1 gallon Zip-lock bag

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (sturdy and longer than 6", not pocket-sized)
- 1 metal nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-sized bar of soap (3 oz. & up); no Ivory or Jergens
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages, 3/4-1" (Band-Aids)
- Enclose \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (do not buy toothpaste) & to ship the kit

Please bring your assembled bags to the church on or before **June 4**. They will be delivered to Annual Conference on June 15.

Friends of Barnabas

Rummage around in your kitchen, car, closets and garage and find all of those reusable grocery/shopping totes that you don't need or use. We are collecting them to send to Honduras.

YOUR EFFORTS COUNT! DONATE YOUR USED GLASSES TODAY!

Donate your used glasses, including sunglasses and reading glasses by dropping them in the collection box in the Atrium.





*"To everyone who is thirsty, he gives something to drink;
to everyone who is hungry, he gives good things to eat."
Psalm 107:9*

June 2018

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

12:00 pm Recital Rehearsal

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

9:00 am Parsonage Yard Sale

4:00 pm Piano Recital

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

CRAZY SOCK SUNDAY

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

3:00 pm UMYF

6:00 pm CONNECT - Worship Service

MONDAY, JUNE 4

KITS FOR CONFERENCE DUE TODAY

6:30 pm Council on Ministries

7:30 pm Church Council

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

7:00 pm Transition Team

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

6:00 pm Covenant Prayer Group

8:00 pm AA

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

8:30 am Worship

9:40 am Allongé Dance Performance

A Tribute to Pastor Myrtle

9:45 am Sunday School

10:40 am Allongé Dance Performance

A Tribute to Pastor Myrtle

11:00 am Worship

4:30 pm UMYF

6:00 pm CONNECT - Worship Service

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

6:00 pm Covenant Prayer Group

8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

8:00 am Day Care Father's Day
Breakfast

7:00 pm Christian Women's Book Club

7:00 pm Girl Scout Service Unit

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

FATHER'S DAY

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

4:30 pm UMYF

6:00 pm CONNECT - Worship Service

MONDAY, JUNE 18

9 AM-12 PM - VBS

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

9 AM-12 PM - VBS

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

9 AM-12 PM - VBS

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

6:00 pm Covenant Prayer Group

7:00 pm Trustee Meeting

8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

9 AM-12 PM - VBS

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

9 AM-12 PM - VBS

4:00 pm Rose's Supper

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

11:00 pm Salvation Army Kitchen

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

12:00 pm Reception

4:30 pm UMYF

6:00 pm CONNECT - Worship Service

MONDAY, JUNE 25

5:15 pm Day Care Board Meeting

7:00 pm Cub Scout LPM

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

6:00 pm Covenant Prayer Group

8:00 pm AA

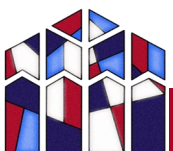
SATURDAY, JUNE 30

8:00 pm AA



CRAZY SOCK SUNDAY, JUNE 3

This is the last part of the Serve portion of our Stewardship Campaign. You will see some crazy socks that day to remind you to bring some new socks during the month of June that will be distributed to the homeless of Suffolk.





*"To everyone who is thirsty, he gives something to drink;
to everyone who is hungry, he gives good things to eat."
Psalm 107:9*

June 2018

Birthdays

6/1 Kathleen Beale
6/1 Charles Swann
6/2 Bill Bailey
6/2 Alexandria Russell
6/2 Tyler Oliva
6/3 Brenda Cox
6/3 Timothy Davis
6/3 Andrea Savage
6/4 Carrilin Hirsch
6/6 Grace Eure
6/7 Nathan Brooks
6/9 Rachel Gist
6/10 David Hoy
6/10 Reid Rogers
6/10 Sarah Auger
6/11 Harriette Albritton
6/11 Sharry Swann
6/11 Hattie Belle Carr
6/12 Sally Caton
6/12 Claire Askew
6/14 Ella Wimer

6/14 Dana Miller
6/14 Robin Naylor
6/15 Christopher Parker
6/15 Samantha Nelson
6/16 June Barrett
6/16 Craig Johnson
6/17 Richard Palmer
6/17 Rick Callis
6/17 Lindsey Holman
6/17 Melanie French
6/17 Mark Popik
6/17 Robin Decker
6/17 Chris Whalley
6/18 Betty Backus
6/18 Sharon Suttle
6/18 Britney Webb
6/18 Joshua Savage
6/19 Kathryn Hicks
6/19 Sophia Williams
6/20 William Blair
6/20 George O'Berry

6/20 Grace Russell
6/20 Jordan Webb
6/20 Jenson Jordan
6/21 Elizabeth Toner
6/22 Linda Drummond
6/23 Joshua Graham
6/23 Finnlay Smyth
6/24 Katie Humphrey
6/24 Helen Henschel
6/25 Lee Anne Drapalik
6/26 Nancy Webb
6/26 Daniel Krewson
6/27 Jeremy Swann
6/27 Kyle Wrighte
6/27 Valeria Webb
6/28 Sydney Sackett
6/28 Kent Brooks
6/29 Leslie Matthews
6/30 T. O. Palmer
6/30 Graham Wagner
6/30 Jennifer Myers

Anniversaries

6/01 Joe & Lee Anne Drapalik
6/01 Donna Rogers & Jimmie Bell
6/01 Darrell & Karen Scott
6/01 Joe & Nancy Webb
6/02 Ney & Laura Austin
6/03 Scott & Angie Mills
6/06 William & Alex Powell
6/06 Pat & Sharon Suttle
6/07 Herbert & Alice Horst
6/10 George & Sue Birdsong
6/13 Bob & Billye Walton
6/14 Mark & Janet Lambert
6/15 Morgan & Sandy Wilson
6/18 Jay & Robin Dixon
6/20 Phil & Barbara McPhail
6/21 Bill & Annette Bailey
6/24 Gary & Mary Scott
6/26 Jack & Mary Ann Eure
6/28 Jeff & Katie Beale



WELCOME LUNCH FOR PASTOR RICHARD MEISER SUNDAY • JULY 1 • 1018

It's a great day at Main Street United Methodist Church! The congregation will be welcoming Pastor Rich to Main Street on Sunday, July 1, 2018. There will be **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 am** and a welcome lunch immediately following the worship service.

Chicken for the lunch will be donated, and the church members are asked to bring a covered dish from home.

Please find the alphabet for your last name below to see what you are being asked to bring for the lunch. Please be reminded, your dish should be enough to feed 5-6 people.

A-F (FRUIT OR SALAD DISH) **G-M** (VEGETABLE SIDE DISH) **N-S** (DESSERT)
T-Z (STARCHY SIDE DISH)

Please see Karen Williams (757-620-5767) for any questions. Thank you!



CHURCH STAFF & CONTACT INFORMATION

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THE MAIN THING AT MAIN STREET... *FINDING THE WAY FORWARD*

Main Street is working on its way forward to receive Rich Meiser as the new pastor on July 1. Our way forward includes strengthening our communications, our Council on Ministries, and working together to be the church we are called to be in Suffolk and in the world.

But, as indicated in another article of the Messenger, there is another movement called "The Way Forward," in the United Methodist Church. (See page 2)

The issues involved strike fear in our hearts and tug at our understandings and misunderstandings of Scripture and of humanity. If we can take a breath, and truly listen to each other before offering our own opinions, we have a great opportunity to grow deeper in our faith. I hope you will read the plans to be submitted to General Conference with curiosity, questions and an open mind. Also, I hope you will think deeply about your own opinions and feelings and what data you use to support them. And I ask you to join all United Methodists through the Upper Room ministries to pray beginning June 3. UMCPrays.org.

All United Methodists are invited to:

- Engage in a weekly Wesleyan 24-hour fast from Thursday after dinner to Friday mid-afternoon. Those who have health situations causing food fasts to be unadvisable might consider fasting from social media, emails or another daily activity.
- Pause and pray for our church's mission and way forward daily

for four minutes from 2:23 through 2:26 a.m. or p.m. This is because the Special Session of General Conference will be held February 23 through February 26, 2019.

- Pray using a weekly prayer calendar that will be posted on the UMCPrays.org website from June 2, 2018, through the end of February 2019. The calendar will list a unique cluster of names each week. It will also include Commission on a Way Forward members, the Commission of the General Conference and the staff of the General Conference.

My fear is that this issue will take over and keep the church from doing what Christ has called us to do, to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Jesus does not address the issue. But Jesus does address the issues of: who is our neighbor? our use of money, our anxiety and fear, and our trust and faith in Him.

When Jesus was asked what is the most important commandment of the Jewish Law, Jesus responded, "To love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...The second is to love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these 2 Commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40)

In parting, I ask you to spend your energy, your assets and your love where Jesus directs.

- Pastor Ellen