

Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday
9:00 a.m.—3:00 pm
754-4247

Staff

Rev. Dr. Russell
Anderson

Church Secretary
Carrie Hancock

Custodian
Integrated Life Choices
Call Office

Committee Chairs
Admin Council
Joe Swanson
750-6063

Board of Trustees
Buzz Todd
Brenda Starkey

Finance
Dave Harrington
750-2551

Staff/Parish Relations
Bob Rasmussen
750-0151

Worship
Lynda Berggren
750-2324
Becky Schwenk
687-6483

Mission-Outreach
Nancy Harrington
754-4247

UMM
Dave Snow
Tom Knutson

UMW
Carol Tjernagel
750-2830

Education
Jami Wemhoff
750-5276

VBS
Vacant

Auditor
Larry Hurlburt



February



United Methodist Church Newsletter

February 2019

stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com



On February 23rd 864 delegates from around the world will gather in St Louis, MO for a special called General Conference. In three days' time the delegates will work through 78 petitions regarding how best to move the United Methodist Church forward in the on-going debate over the Book of Discipline's language on human sexuality. No other concern can be brought to the conference floor. There are five plans presented for the delegates to vote which will be best for the UMC as a whole; the Traditional Plan, the Modified Traditional Plan, the Connectional Plan, the One Church Plan, and the Simple Plan. You may read more about these plans on the Great Plains Conference website at, greatplainsumc.org, look under the "Commission on a Way Forward" tab.

The decision made at this special called General Conference will affect all 12.5 million United Methodist members, 44,000 united Methodist churches, and 54,000 United Methodist clergy around the world. My Wednesday night study group has been discussing this subject using Wil Cantrell's book, *Unafraid and Unashamed*, as he examined the prevailing thought on how the United Methodist Church can move forward.

I think it is important for you know this is happening in our denomination. Many other denominations have already journeyed this road and others are beginning the discussion. To give you some background information on how we came to this place I will begin by describing the decision-making body of the United Methodist Church. General Conference is a conference of the worldwide United Methodist Church that meets every four years at various locations to make decisions that concern our Book of Discipline – how we conduct ourselves as the United Methodist Church. Each annual conference elects a select number of delegates representative of the membership of that particular annual conference. The Great Plains Conference, which we are a part of, is allowed twelve delegates, six clergy and six lay persons with three each as alternates.

At the 1972 General Conference, the first General Conference after the merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, language regarding homosexuality was added to our Book of Discipline.

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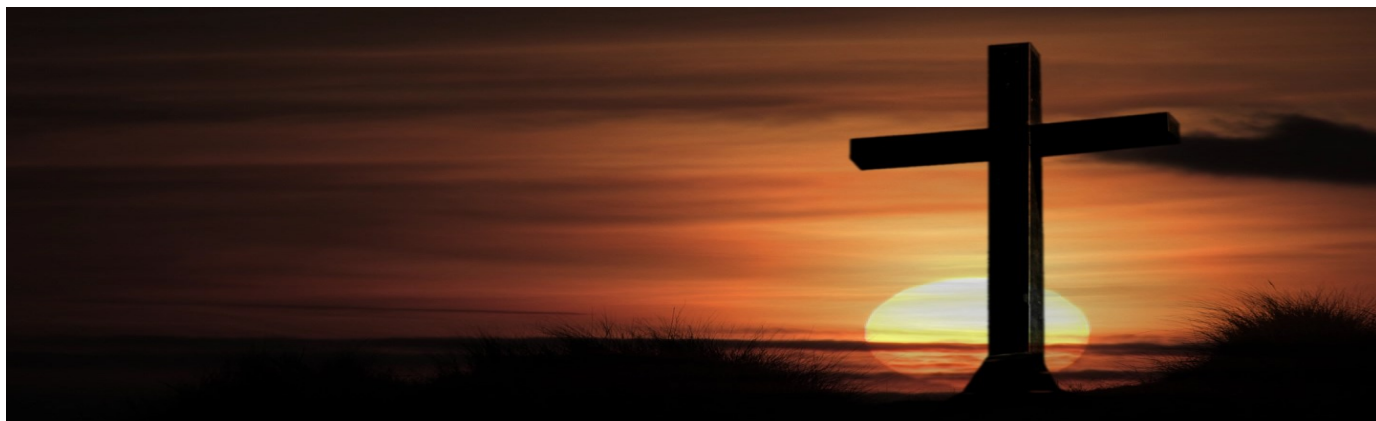
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Ever since that General Conference it has been the subject of great debate. During the 2016 General Conference, amid great angst, heated debate and protest, the delegates, led by the Great Plains Conference delegates, asked the Council of Bishops to lead the church through this matter. The Council of Bishops suspended all debate on this subject until a special called General Conference in 2019. They invited 32 people, lay and clergy, conservative and progressive, U.S. and Central Conference, to form the Commission on a Way Forward. This group met for a year and half, from 2016 to 2018 and concluded the best option for the church was the One Church Plan, letting each annual conference, each church, and each clergyperson do what they believed was right and just. However, they also acknowledged that there was another option, letting likeminded churches and clergy join together in likeminded annual conferences. This became the Connectional Plan. They also said there was a third option and that is to make no changes to the Book of Discipline. This was deemed the Traditional plan. By majority, the Council of Bishops voted to send the One Church Plan to the special called General Conference to be voted on by the delegates. Over the course of the year since this decision was made, the Council of Bishops have chosen to allow all three plans, plus the two additional plans named above to be voted on at the special called General Conference.

As we move toward this special called General Conference, I invite you to be in prayer for the United Methodist Church and its delegates to the special called General Conference. Pray that in this divisive world in which we live that the United Methodist Church can peacefully work through its differences. Know above all else, God is not done with the United Methodist Church, and that God does, and will, journey with us through this unique time in our history.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Russ





February Worship

February 3rd: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion.

Liturgical Color: Green

Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

“Speaking in Love: What Language Do You Speak?”

February 10th: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Liturgical Color: Green

Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

“Living in Love: Loving what God Loves”

February Worship

February 17th: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany.

Liturgical Color: Green

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-23

“Nurtured in Love: Growing in God’s Love”

February 24th: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Liturgical Color: Green

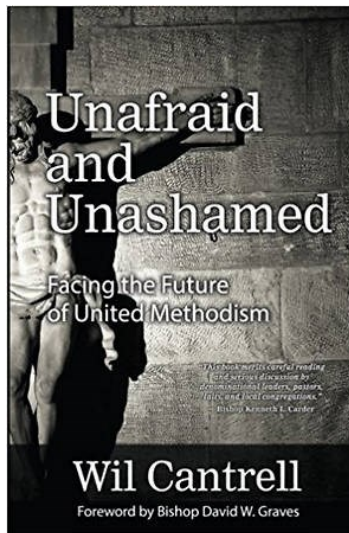
Guest Speaker: Dave Harrington



Commission on the Way Forward Study

As the United Methodist Church heads toward the special called General Conference in February 2019 to vote on A Way Forward, Pastor Russ will lead an eight-week study to help us, as individuals, become more informed about what is at stake in this debate over human sexuality within the United Methodist Church. This study will be using Wil Cantrell's book, *Unafraid and Unashamed: Facing the Future of United Methodism*. Cantrell approaches this "hot topic" in an unbiased fashion allowing the reader to come to their own understanding of God at work in our midst and how to be a faithful witness, in good Wesleyan fashion of "Doing no harm."

The class began on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 6:30 PM and will last approximately eight weeks depending upon participant involvement. For further questions regarding this study, please contact Pastor Russ.



Wednesday Night Lenten Study

Join Pastor Russ on Wednesday nights, beginning March 13th, for a six-week Lenten study. We will be looking at Jesus' final week, where every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Using author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, we will explore the biblical text surrounding the Passion story. Amy-Jill Lavine will show us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. Please contact the church office or Pastor Russ to sign-up for the class.



We are starting a new prayer request list. If you would like your name added to this list, please let the church office know.

Thank you

***Note:** We can only publish prayer concerns with the permission of the people involved. Also, Pastor Russ often does not find out about hospitalizations. HIPPA regulations do not allow the hospital to call unless they are requested to do so. Please give him a call (Church 754-4247). if you or someone you know is in the hospital or desires a call. Thank you for your help.*

Sunday



Worship time 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

Sunday morning 9:00 am.

Children's Education

Sunday School 9:15 am.

Youth Group

Wednesday evenings 6:30 pm
during school year

Thursday

Come 'n Go Coffee 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Come, meet your church family.

You will like us!



MISSION STATEMENT

'Making and Nurturing Disciples'

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

CIRCLE MEETINGS

February 26th

Martha 9:00 am

Mary 2:00 pm



Epworth Village Needs:

Monetary gifts
Gift Cards to Walmart, Walgreens
Bosselman's or Casey's gas purchase cards
Menard's gift cards for maintenance needs
Reams of plain white copy paper
Antibacterial soap, hand pump or refillables
Alcohol-free hand sanitizer
Hand lotion-unscented
Generic hygiene products-hair products, body wash, feminine hygiene products
Infant-toddler hygiene products
Infant-toddler baby wipes and disposable diapers
Paper towels, toilet tissue, napkins
Medium laundry baskets
Large duffle bags for foster care belongings
Basic cleaning supplies for a home
Letter/brochure folding machine
Manila folders and label stickers



Usher-Greeter Monthly list

Starting on February 24th, 2019, a new Usher and Greeter list will begin. These will be assigned to those who have shown interest in volunteering to do these things. If you would, at any time, be interested in being added to this list, please let Carrie in the office know and she can add you! You can either be added in the regular monthly calendar as an Usher or Greeter, or you may choose to be added to the Alternates list. We truly appreciate all the hard work that our volunteers are willing to do!

Don't forget, the clipboards to sign up for Fellowship, Candle lighters and Scripture are still located in the Narthex. Please continue to volunteer, we need your help. There are opportunities to usher, greet, and light candles as well as host fellowship. Also pastor could use your help in reading scripture, and if you are musically blessed, we have a sign up sheet for that too!

There is money available to help purchase food items for fellowship. Please contact the church office.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
February 24th	Martha Voigt/Susie Wolfert	Doug and Darla Voigt
March 2019	Charlene Craig/Connie Snow	Mary Anne Rickertsen/Carol Phillips
April 2019	Susie Wolfert/ Diane Johnson	Larry and Deidre Hurlburt
May 2019	Karen Killion/Darla Voigt	Charlene Craig/ Mary Ann Rickertsen
June 2019	Lefty and Jolene Wolfe	Connie Snow/ Diane Johnson
July 2019	Mary Ann Rickertsen/Martha Voigt	Doug and Darla Voigt
August 2019	Bob and Francine Rasmussen	Connie Snow/Carol Phillips

Note: The United Methodist Men will be ushers and greeters every 3rd Sunday of every month.

See next page for list of Alternates for Ushers and Greeters.



Alternates list: (for Ushers and Greeters)

Greeters Only:

Martha Voigt	754-4666	mevoigt@hotmail.com
Susie Wolfert	754-4235	susiewolfert1950@gmail.com
Karen Killion	754-2070	
Lefty and Jolene Wolfe-	308-687-6175	jolene.killinger@gmail.com
Harold Rickertsen	754-4038	hrick@hamilton.net

Greeters or Ushers:

Charlene Craig (Feb-May only)	754-5503	ccflowers.craig8@gmail.com
Connie Snow	754-4023	dpclsnow@charter.net
Diane Johnson	308-379-8716	djohnson27@msn.com
Mary Ann Rickertsen	754-4038	hrick@hamilton.net
Larry and Deidre Hurlburt-	750-7887	titanic.hurlburt@yahoo.com
Doug and Darla Voigt	750-3973	dvoigt00@gmail.com(Darla) dvoigt332@gmail.com(Doug)
Carol and Mike Phillips	308-380-9127	cjmphillips4@gmail.com
Bob and Francine Rasmussen	750-2594	rasfamily2011@hotmail.com
Theda Van Horn	754-4541	



This and That.....



Now that the weather is colder, there are some jackets hanging in the closet that have been here all summer, fall and winter long. If you are missing one, please check to see if one of these is yours. We also have a Lost and Found in the office. Please ask Carrie to see the items we have located around the church.

Quilters and Crafters

We have a big project coming up and we could use your help. Hospice is in need of lap size quilts for their patients. Please join us on **Thursday, February 21st at 1:30 pm**. There is fabric to sort, plans to discuss and decisions to be made. We need your input. You don't need to know how to quilt to be a part of this project. We hope to see you on the 21st. If you have questions, contact Marian Odabasi, Ursula Sorlie, or Carol Phillips.

'Unafraid and Unashamed-Facing the Future of United Methodism' is the book some of us have been discussing on Wednesday evening in our Way Forward Study with Pastor Russ. If someone would like to borrow a book to read, Martha Voigt is willing to lend out her copy. If interested, please get ahold of her at 308-754-4666.

Box Tops for Education

Even though we are no longer collecting these for Epworth Village, please continue to bring these coupons to church. We will donate them to the school.

School Children Milk Money

Our church is committed to the St. Paul Public Schools for those children who otherwise would not have it available. Please keep this mission in your prayers and consider donating to this wonderful cause. Make sure and note it on your check. Thank you!

The adult Sunday School class will begin a Lenten study entitled 'Easter from the Back Side' approximately February 17th after the present book is completed. Please let Elaine McClellan (754-5177) know by **February 6th** if you would like to join this group, so books can be ordered. They meet at 9 am on Sunday mornings.

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February is Food Pantry month for the United Methodist Church. Please help us stock the shelves this month. Any food or paper item is accepted but these items are in high demand.

- Syrup
- Pancake mix
- Jelly
- Frosting mix
- Brownie mix
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Ranch salad dressing
- Crackers(saltines and others)
- Toilet Tissue
- Small Laundry soap
- Orange juice



Welcome!

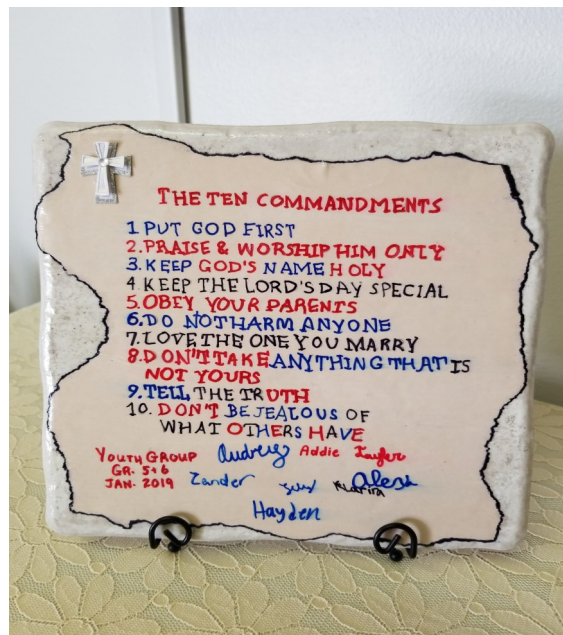
New Members!

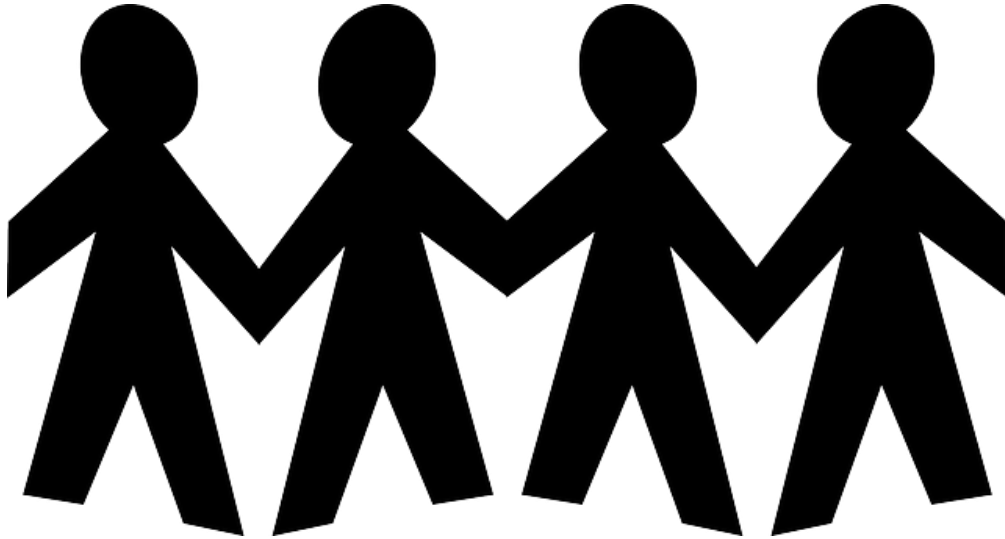
Please welcome our new members to the church, Adam and Kerri Rensch. They come to us with their two children, Graham and Keira.



Youth Group

See what the Youth Group has been up to!
They have created this beautiful tile titled
‘The Ten Commandments.’ This is located in the
Narthex.





United Methodist Church Prayer Chain

The purpose of the prayer chain is to offer special prayers for individuals in critical need. The chain cannot be activated without the permission of the family in need. Call prayer requests to the church office 754-4247. The prayer request will be called to the first person on these lists. Each caller then calls the next person on the list. If that person is unavailable, a call should be placed to the following name and contact made with the first party later in the day. Last name on list does not call anyone. We are in need of more people joining the prayer chain.

Praying for each other is an important ministry that we can do for our church family. If you would be interested in becoming part of this mission, please contact the church office.

Marilyn Wall	754-5100	Rae Lee	754-5209	Jackie Cook	754-9115
Deb Wells	754-5620	Vanice Bahensky	754-7873	Charlene Craig	754-5503
Nancy Harrington	754-5136	Marlene Kremlacek	754-4876	Mary Ann Rickertsen	754-4038
Theda Van Horn	754-4541	Martha Voigt	754-4666	DeEtte Lukasiewicz	750-0246
Cleo Edwards	754-4853	Rose Ross	754-4993	Brenda Starkey	750-7967
Elaine McClellan	754-5177	Lory Thomsen	754-4286	LuAnn Todd	308-380-5022
Ashley Meyer	308-627-2808	Charlotte Rasmussen	308-863-2281	Carol Tjernagel	750-2830
				Dorothy Jorgensen	754-4126

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The people of The United Methodist Church™

1320 Baxter Street - Saint Paul, NE 68873
308-754-4247 or stpaulumc@qwestoffice.net

Address Service Requested

February

