

MARCH 2019

Scotia UMC

New Member Classes / Methodism 101

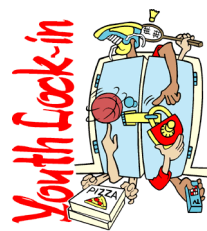
I'm not sure what to call what I want to do here.
I am trying to reach a variety of people who attend our church:

1. ***People who are not members of the United Methodist church.*** There are new people who may want to learn about the United Methodist Church. There are people who have attended here for years but have never become members and don't really know about the theology, polity, and structure of the church.
2. ***People who are members of another United Methodist Church*** who want to transfer their membership to this church.
3. ***People who are members of a church of another denomination*** who want to transfer membership.
4. ***People who have been Methodists for years,*** from before we were United Methodists, and who no longer remember what they learned in confirmation classes so many years ago.

What I have in mind is a series of classes on United Methodist history, organization, polity, structure, and theology. The culmination will be reception of new members of our church by either profession of faith or transfer, and reaffirmation of faith by current members on Easter morning. No one is *required* to take these classes to join the church, although I think it's a good idea to know what you're joining. I will schedule these classes as soon as possible to accommodate everyone's schedule if I can. Please let me know by Friday, March 8th if you are interested by emailing me at umccarl@twc.com.

Sunday School¹

The Sunday School classes completed their study of the Book of Proverbs in February. They learned important life lessons such as the meaning of wisdom, choosing our words carefully, being called to love those we don't like and being a good friend. March will bring lessons on Lent & Easter.



The Youth Group will be having a "lock in" beginning Friday (3/29) evening at 7:00 thru Saturday (3/30) morning at 11:00 am. Should be lots of fun! They also are planning a trip to the Regional Food bank on April 28th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

SAVE THE DATE! Children's Easter Party will be on April 13th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. There will be an Easter egg hunt, games & lots of goodies. Don't miss it!



Wesley's Wisdom

"Be active, be diligent; avoid all laziness, sloth, indolence. Fly from every degree, every appearance of it; else you will never be more than half a Christian." –*Through the Year with Wesley, page 43*

Worship Schedule

Liturgists

3/3 Holly Russo
3/10 Rick Frederick
3/17 Sean O'Sullivan
3/24 Stephen Long
3/31 Deb Elliott

Counters

Martha Hatt, Tim Keegan

Ushers & Greeters

3/3 Sally Dean & Pat Knapp
3/10 Sue Sykes, Meg Sykes
3/17 Royann Rogerson & Carole Jacobson
3/24 Dave & Kim Huhtala
3/31 Deb & Mark Cieslak

Social

3/3 Jeff LeLievre & family
3/10 Judy Swain
3/17 Dick & Pat Knapp
3/24 Dave & Kim Huhtala
3/31 Deb Elliott

From the Pastor

I am writing this letter on the last day of the special General Conference of the United Methodist Church. I do not know, at this point, what the final actions of the deliberations will be, but it looks like they will reject the One Church Plan. This is the plan put forward by the Commission on a Way Forward appointed by the bishops at the behest of the last General Conference as an attempt to finally (after 50 years) resolve the conflict within the church over human sexuality. It appears that the plan put forward by the conservative wing of the church, called the Traditionalist Plan, is what will be approved.

As I understand that in that plan (and I may not have it right), all of the discriminatory language in the Discipline (homosexuality is against Christian teaching, gay clergy and gay weddings are forbidden) is not only upheld but will be strictly enforced and penalties will be increased. And if you don't like it, here's how you leave the United Methodist Church.

My prediction is that the church will not be United for much longer. My heart grieves for my United Methodist Church. I pray that I am just having a bad day and that things are really not so bleak. I trust that God will lead me to where I need to be in all this.

Stay tuned and, as best I can, I will keep you informed.

Pastor Carl

Important Announcement From Conference

The Bishop's talk on the actions of the Special Session of General Conference will now be a single event that will be held remotely in all 12 districts. Mark your calendars now for this Conference-wide time of worship, sharing, questions, and prayer. The Conference-wide event will take place on March 17 from 4-6 p.m. Exact district locations will be shared as soon as they are available.

Shared Services

We will once again be sharing some worship experiences with our brothers and sisters at Alplaus UMC. We will join with them for Ash Wednesday at 7:00 pm, March 6. They will join with us for Good Friday worship at 7:00 pm on April 19.

Regional Food Bank – Volunteers, meet at the Food Bank at 2:30 pm on Tues., March 19th. If you need to carpool, contact Dick Knapp at 518-393-5737. -Jill Dunster-Wesley (cell) 423-3546 (home) 372-4047 jldunster@hotmail.com

CALENDER & EVENTS

- 3/4 Trustees Meeting 7 pm
- 3/6 Ash Wednesday Service at Alplaus UMC 7 pm
- 3/9 Spring forward! – Turn clocks ahead at night.
- 3/16 Free Community Breakfast
- 3/17 Staff Parish Meeting after service
- 3/19 Regional Food Bank 2:30 pm
- 3/20 First Day of Spring! 🌸🌸🎵
- 3/20 Finance Meeting 7 pm
- 3/26 Admin. Meeting 7 pm
- 3/29-3/30 Youth Group Lock-In

Tuesday Morning Bible Study – in the Fireside Room at 9:30 a.m.

HYMN #496 “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Words by William Walford

Music by William B. Bradbury

William Walford was born in England. He was blind but he kept his mind active by whittling out useful objects like shoe horns. He was called upon to preach occasionally and he composed his sermons in his head. He memorized huge amounts of the Bible which he quoted verbatim in his sermons. He also composed lines of verse.

Thomas Salmon, an American, was acquainted with William and after hearing William repeat two or three of his pieces and since William had no one at home to write his words down, Thomas grabbed paper and a pencil and wrote them down. The Observer published them September 13, 1845.

William Batchelder Bradbury, also English, was a musician (organist) who composed the tunes to many recognizable pieces like “Jesus Loves Me”, “He Leadeth Me” and several more found in hymnals and songbooks today. He composed the music for “Sweet Hour of Prayer” in 1861.

– submitted by Holly Russo

Prayers - for Geri Byam and family in the recent loss of her father.



"Through prayerful discernment and having completed the proper consultations according to The United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, I am happy to announce the appointment of the Rev. Megan A. Stowe as Superintendent of the Central Massachusetts District, effective July 1, 2019.

In 2014, Rev. Stowe was appointed as a pastor, on loan from the Upper New York Conference, to St. Paul's United Methodist Church in St. Albans, the largest church in the Vermont District. After witnessing her ministry, I was delighted to support her request to transfer to New England in 2016.

As a pastor, Rev. Stowe has provided leadership in making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, increasing St. Paul's membership by 26 in 2018 alone.

She has a pastoral and passionate heart as evidenced in her ministry with all ages. Whether quilting baptismal blankets, teaching children, leading youth, young adult and lay servant groups or providing pastoral care for cancer patients or elderly congregants, she is fully engaged in bringing the love of our Creator God to all of God's beloved children.

As a district superintendent, she will bring this same passion and commitment to care for the clergy and laity in her district and a new perspective and energy to the Cabinet." -Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

Congrats to Rev. Megan! She extends her thanks to SUMC for the skills she learned while pastoring this church and all the wonderful people here that helped to shape her ministry. She is thankful for you all!

Free community breakfast coming up on March 16th. We will be having a bake sale and soup sale during the breakfast like always. I will be at church from 5-6 PM on Friday night if anyone has goodies to drop off. The soups will be put in the refrigerator until Saturday morning. You can also drop them off in the morning before the breakfast starts, in the Loomis Room. I ask if you are able, to please bag up your goodies in zip lock baggies. We have the soup containers with lids available. Please ask Jill for containers if needed. Thank you again for stocking my freezer with those delicious soups and chili. -Holly Russo, Mission Team



Church Treasurers Report
31-Jan-19

	<u>Jan-19</u>
Individual Contributions	\$8,301
	4,4
Building Use/Rent	75
Fund Raising/Interest Income	48
Other Designated Giving	-
Total Operating Receipts	<u>\$12,824</u>
Wages & other employment expenses	\$4,831
	8
Church Operations/Program	47
	7
Parsonage Expenses	28
	3
Church Building-Repairs/Safety	29
	1,6
Church Building-Utilities/Water	43
	9
Church Building-All Other	79
Apportionments	-
Benevolences	-
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$9,358</u>
Surplus	\$ 3,466

There is a surplus of \$3,466 as of 1/31/19.

If there are any questions or requests for detailed information,
please contact Mary Connors at mehardball@yahoo.com.