



Cornerstone

. . . building ministry with children, youth and families so that our community may flourish.

February 2019

From the Pastor's Pen

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, From February 23-26, 2019, 864 delegates selected from every United Methodist Annual Conference worldwide will gather in St Louis MO for a special General Conference. The delegation, made up of equal numbers of laity and clergy, will consider proposals generated by the *Commission on a Way Forward* at the request of the Council of Bishops made during the 2016 General Conference. The 32-member *Commission* was appointed to examine paragraphs in *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality and to explore options to strengthen the unity of the church.

Our Bishop, Gregory V. Palmer, is encouraging all West Ohio United Methodists to participate daily in *Praying Our Way Forward* until the conclusion of the Special Session of General Conference which ends February 26, 2019.

Many in our congregation found participating in **21 days of prayer** during our Capital Campaign *REACHING OUT PRAISING UP Building Together in Faith* to be spiritually uplifting. With this in mind, here are some suggestions and resources that we may use leading up to General Conference, the only body that can speak officially for our denomination.

Engage in a weekly Wesleyan 24-hour fast from Thursday after dinner to Friday mid-afternoon. If a food fast is unadvisable, please consider fasting from social media, emails or another daily activity.

Pray using a weekly prayer calendar currently posted on the UMCPrays.org website through the end of February 2019. The calendar lists a unique cluster of names each week.

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.** OR at another time. Why this time frame? Because the Special Session of General Conference will be held February 23 through February 26, 2019.

Here is a sample format as you pause for four minutes of prayer:

Begin with a moment of holy silence to allow for centering, settling, and focusing.

Minute #1 Prayer of Adoration

Good and great God we recognize and celebrate that you are loving, kind, and faithful. You are everywhere in this world and beyond. You are as close as our next breath. With John Wesley we rejoice knowing, "Best of all, you are with us."

Silence, concluding with: "Hear our prayer, O God."

Minute #2 Prayer of Thanks

God of grace, we thank you that you hear us when we pray and are ever ready and able to act in ways beyond anything we could ask or imagine. Thank you for our brothers and sisters around the world, and especially for those who have offered to serve by attending the special-called General Conference. Thank you for ordering our steps and for preparing a way.

Silence, concluding with: "Hear our prayer, O God."

Minute #3 Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, we confess that we have allowed fear and distrust to place distance between us and our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. Forgive us for making idols of our own thoughts, voices, and opinions. Thank you for forgiving us and for your perfect love that casts out all fear.

Silence, concluding with: "Hear our prayer, O God."

Minute #4 Prayer of Asking

God of peace and wisdom, from this time forward, may we walk with you in trust and peace, and with our brothers and sisters in the love and unity you desire. May we truly sing together in harmony a song of praise that draws all to you. Even now, may you bless those who will attend the special-called General Conference, assuring them of your love, filling them with your wisdom, preparing them with your peace. May they and we become more sensitive to the voice of your Holy Spirit, so that all we do will please you and bring you glory.

Silence, concluding with: "Hear our prayer, O God."

All of these prayers we offer in the name of the Risen Christ. **Amen.**

Peace, Pastor Chip



News and Notes

Thanking the Lord for thoughtful you! The meals that were delivered to us were absolutely delicious! They were very much appreciated and couldn't have been given to us at a better time.

Kim and LuAnn Sigler

Rockford Methodist Church, I wanted to personally thank each one of you for the time and generosity towards the Angel Tree families. This was my first year and I am amazed at how this community came together to help others. This program could not happen without each one of you! I am looking forward to next year!

Sincerely, Ashlee Rutledge

RUMC College Outreach, Thank you so much for the Christmas goodies. It was very thoughtful and I am very grateful for the items.

Thank you!! Liz Leighner

RUMC College Outreach, Thank you very much for the candies and gift cards. I appreciate them. Many thanks for being so nice!

- Salina Leighner

Friends – I personally want to thank you on behalf of the families of House of Refuge for your donation. We could not fight homelessness and domestic violence with support such as yours. We are so very grateful for you.

Lisa Rivera, Development coordinator

I want to thank the RUMC for their prayers, support and the beautiful purple Bible. For Pastor Chip and all the people who visited or sent cards to Mom during her illness. For the beautiful service, Paula for the lovely music and Casey for running the sound system. To all the best cooks in Rockford for the delicious meal they served us. It couldn't have been more perfect.

Love, Brenda and the Eileen Davis Family

Dear Friends, Thank you so very much for giving of your time with effort in providing the lunch after Mom's funeral. We appreciated it so very much! The food was terrific. May God bless all of you and thank you again.

- Dudgeon Family

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Scriptures and Messages for February 2019

February 3, 2019 communion

Scripture reading Psalm 37:1-11 (1-14)

Message— Let It Be

February 10, 2019 Scouting Sunday

Scripture readings - Colossians 3:23, Matthew 25:14-30

Message 'Do Your Best'

February 17, 2019 prayer general conference

Scripture reading *PS 19:14*

Key thought: overview general conf plans

February 24, 2019

Scripture readings—Hebrews 11:1,6; Galatians 2:20

Message— Sure of what we hope for...

UMW, Girls Night Out, Small Group

The UMW is collecting used greeting cards to be sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children where the children make them into new cards by removing the front of the card from its back or inside portion. The donor card front is then centered on either an ivory or white backing resulting in a "new" card with a recycled front panel. The benefits are two-fold: customers receive "green" cards for use and the children receive payment for their work and learn the benefits and importance of "going green." New cards of all kinds with or without their envelopes are also accepted. They will not accept cards from Hallmark, American Greetings and Disney due to copyright laws. If you have cards to donate, please give them to Nita Habegger or put them in the box marked "Cards for St. Jude's" by the end of February. If you have any questions, you may contact Nita.



2019

- Feb. – 9th – Valentine Ball
 - Mar. – Jeopardy
 - May – Weekend Retreat – more details to come
 - June/July – an outdoors activity – more details to come
 - Aug. – "School Days Laura Ingalls Wilder"
 - Sept. – Prayer
 - Oct. – Mission project – more details to come
 - Nov/Dec. – "Oh Christmas Tree"
- Specific dates and times will be determined later.
- Girls Night Out is an opportunity for all women to share a time of food, fun, and fellowship!

Small Group Opportunity—Sisters in Grace

The Sisters in Grace will be starting their next Bible Study on February 28 at 10:00am. We chose to revisit the study by James MacDonald called "**Lord Change My Attitude—before it's too late**".

This was the first study that we did 4 years ago and we thought it would be interesting to see how far we have come in this walk. We will pinpoint those negative attitudes that keep us in the wilderness of our spiritual experience and give us positive help in developing God honoring attitudes. Come to go on this journey with us as we search for "Promised Land Living". We meet in the café. Please let me know if you are interested so that I can get a book ordered for you. Barb Pedroza

Parkway Local Food Pantry

A ministry to our area communities facilitated by the Rockford United Methodist Church
 LOCATION: East Columbia Street OPEN: Fourth Saturday of each month from 9-11 am
 Rockford OH 45882

Bibles For Believer Annual Report - Number of Bibles Sent

2016-134 (partial year, program started in mid-year with only the change jar and support from the Missions Board and United Methodist Women)

2017-146 (Hosting the Hospitality Room became our first of many new efforts.)

2018-195 (This dramatic increase was largely due to many matching grants offered by Open Doors. At this point, we do not expect to see as many Bible only grants as we did last year.) We have added the upcoming Gospel Sing and Movie Night to our list of activities. Free will offerings are always accepted when we offer a meal along with the activity. On April 6th, we will be hosting a speaker from Open Doors along with an International Meal, featuring common foods eaten by persecuted believers in Asia and Africa. This is a major event for us, don't miss it! It is the most important single event we have ever attempted. We will offer more details on these new activities as they become available.

Please remember the change jar where all of this began. Recently, contributions have fallen sharply. A dime a week for a year buys a Bible (two if a grant is used) and changes a life forever. In the past, the change jar has purchased 50 Bibles a year so this contribution is not as small as it might appear. Thank you all for your continued faithful support and the amazing growth we have experienced as a result.



Adage from Ann

The holidays are over; winter is upon us – and how! The Skunk Courting Moon will be new on February 4 and is favorable for finding fish or game – just in case you might want to know. My farm paper also encourages me that it's just three weeks until time for snow-drops to bloom and five weeks to the beginning of the morning robin chorus in the countdown to spring.

In thinking back to the holidays, several items stand out in my mind: on Christmas Eve, daughter Jan's family were together. It seems that her son Scott knew of a coworker in the restaurant business where they both worked, who was in distress because she had absolutely no money left to buy Christmas presents for her two little boys. Scott understood this, because he was in the same situation, living paycheck to paycheck with hardly enough to get you there. There was literally nothing left. Just before nine on Christmas Eve, Scott called a friend; they called to find out if there were any stores still open in Ft. Wayne. They found a Target store open until ten, so the young men made a hurried trip to the depleted toy department, and Scott found some nice and appropriate toys for the little boys for their Christmas and delivered them that night.

When it was finished and Jan found why he had left, she said, "You used the money Grandmother Ann gave you for Christmas, didn't you?" Yes, he had, it was all the money he had. Scott's life is an answer to prayer, a prayer of thirty some years so far. Scott is, by the grace of God, a recovering alcoholic. He is on the committee to help with the food in their Sunday morning care, and he serves with the janitorial committee in his church. I am grateful to say that Scott started a new job in January that is better paying, but I'll never forget his willingness to give one of his last dollars so two little boys could know the joy of Christmas that he knew growing up.

Then several weeks ago I got a call from my son Rick asking for

prayer for his boys. I almost choked; it seems I have come full circle, remembering how concerned were for our children, and most of all for Rick. Rick seemed to know what I was thinking, and he apologized for causing us so much concern. His major concern was he son Nick, now 20 and too old to have to listen to his parents. Did I know that Nick had quit school and was living in an apartment? Yes I knew that was his big goal in life, and my thoughts were that school is so expensive that unless you have a bigger ambition in life that that, maybe you should not run up college loan bills, but wait until you have a better idea about life – but that's the difference between a parent and a grandparent. I asked Rick if Nick could pay for his apartment and still eat? Rick said, "I don't know. I haven't seen him since Christmas." Poor Rick! He's so close to his kids. I'm sure he will hear from Nick when Nick gets in over his head. And so we keep praying.

Then there is Nathan. Nathan is the model child, which doesn't help Nick. Nathan graduated from Western Michigan as a computer engineer in December, has a new job in Detroit, and is grounded in common sense, or so it seems. Rick's concern for Nate is his hour drive in heavy Detroit traffic. My answer was, "He'll get used to it."

At present he is living with Aunt Debbie and Uncle Jay, getting immersed in the big city by living on the outer edges. Nathan is at present spending free time looking for an apartment. In the meantime, Aunt Debbie cooks wonderful meals, anything's wonderful if you come home and it's waiting on the table for you hot. Uncle Jay is great at teaching such invaluable lessons as how to choose a bank, do investing and do coupon shopping, as well as change oil in your car. Of course, we pray for Nate and for his choice of a vehicle to drive – but we thank God for only one trauma in the family at a time.

Then we move to Debbie and Jay. How many years has it been

since Debbie had the dream of a home for Ray – that they would build a house and friends along with Ray could have 24 hr round the clock care? It was more than a dream. Debbie trusted God each step of the way. She felt He directed them to the 20 acre farm outside Ann Arbor, MI. They built a modest one story house with a full basement on this farm. Next came chickens, ducks, rabbits, a large vegetable garden, a heavy-duty driveway, shop/barn and tractor for Jay, and finally bees.

Debbie and Jay had selected their dream spot for a house and got permits to drill a well. No luck. No matter where or how deep, the amount of water did not reach requirements. Did Debbie misunderstand God? I didn't think so. Debbie kept saying she would be happy continuing as she was, caring for Ray. The rest of us did not agree. Debbie is 58 years old and has retinitis pigmentosa of her eyes. She has lost part of her vision; and with time she will lose her energy. Ray is 27 years old. Fortunately, Debbie and Jay were able to get a building permit even though the output of the well was subpar; so the work on the house began.

The process has not gone smoothly, but Jay assures me that all the house is now enclosed and the siding finished; the furnace heats, the water and septic are hooked up. There's a coffee pot and chair in the lower level of the house and a toilet that flushes.

The plan is for two young men, already chosen, to move in with Ray on June 1. A company is hired to get the help that is needed and Debbie, Jay and Lucky the cat will move to the big house. Pray: It's what we do, our most important job in any day. Pray for our kids, our grandkids, other people's kids and grandkids, our church family – the list never ends. And watch to see how God answers. It may take years, but He will answer.

- Ann

The Faith We Sing

“The Lord is good to all; and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord, and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power. To make known to the sons of man his mighty acts, and his glorious majesty of his kingdom.” Psalms 145: 9-12
 “And one (seraphim) cried to the others and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.” Isa. 6:3

No hymn glorifies God like HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, written by Reginald Heber. In Rev. 8:4 the four beasts (a lion, calf, face like a man, and eagle) never rest day or night saying, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.” In Isa. 6:3 the seraphims also cry to each other, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of glory.” These creatures give the triad of HOLY, HOLY, HOLY as they ceaselessly glorify God. Each Holy is given for each of the co-eternal co-equal of the single Godhead.

Reginald Heber was born in England in 1783 and at age 17 entered Oxford University where his literary abilities drew much attention. After receiving his ordination to ministry, Heber served an Anglican Church for 16 years in an obscure parish in the village of Hobnet. He was always trying to

improve the music of the Anglican Church but his superiors frowned on the use of anything but metrical psalms, so Heber began writing new hymns of his own and became a prolific literary writer of poems, essays and hymns.

In 1823, just three years before his death at age 43, Heber was sent to India to serve as Bishop of Calcutta. The pressures of his work along with the humid climate wore heavily upon his health. After preaching one Sunday morning to a crowd of Indians on the subject of the evils of their caste system, he suffered a sun-stroke and died suddenly. One year after his death 57 of his hymns was published by his widow.

Whether Heber was in England or India where he was surrounded by false gods, Heber was always impressed with the holiness of God. He wrote the words and truly believed “Only Thou art Holy.”

As you know on occasion I may include a poem, joke, or something I have read. This month.... “God Is.....”
 God is like Ford...He has a better idea.
 God is like Coke...He’s the real thing.
 God is like Pan Am...He makes the going great.
 God is like Pepsi...He’s got a lot

to give.

God is like Standard Oil...You expect more from Him and you get it.

God is like Dial soap...Aren’t you glad you know Him? Don’t you wish everybody did?

God is like Alka-Seltzer...Try Him. You’ll like Him.

God is like Bayer Aspirin...He works wonders.

God is like Hallmark cards...He cared enough to send the very best.

God is like Tide...He gets the stains that others leave behind.

God is like VO 5 hair spray...He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like Mattel Toy...You can tell. He’s swell.

God is like Frosted Flakes...He’s gggggggggreat!

God is like Scotch tape...You can’t see Him, but you know He’s there.

God is like an American Express card...Don’t leave home without Him.

Some of these products may have changed their slogans, but the one sure thing we can always count on, God is...”HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, Lord God Almighty! God in Three persons, blessed Trinity!”

Janice

From the Balcony Bunch—

It is now possible to view the recorded video of our church services online by visiting the church website rumcoh.org. The Sunday services are typically posted by the evening each Sunday. Simply click on the “Worship Service Videos” graphic to choose the date and time of the service you would like to view.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the gift of a Bible honoring and remembering our mother, Sally. She certainly was a woman of faith and the Bible will be a lasting memory.

Thank you, Dawn and family



Administrative Board—January 15, 2018

Kevin Browning, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Kevin read scripture from Proverbs 10:12. May we continue to be lifted up as we do God's work. Kevin offered prayer.

Secretary report – The minutes from the December meeting were distributed to members. Mike Pedroza moved to approve minutes and Tammy McDonough seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Fisher gave the treasurer's report highlighting the beginning balance, itemized expenditures and ending balance. The total Apportionments for 2019 are lower than for 2018. Kara Ransbottom moved to approve report and Machell Price seconded. Passed.

Focus in Ministry – Pastor Chip – We will be holding several information presentations (video) related to special 2019 General Conference beginning January 27, 2019, at 9:30 am and PPR meeting on February 14 and the Ad. Board meeting on February 19. Other presentations possibly on February 3 and February 10.

Lay Leadership – Pastor Chip – We have 3 open opportunities to serve on 2021 Lay Leadership and need a Chair for Memorial Committee. We are working on filling these positions.

Multi-media – John Butler – Nothing to report.

Pastor Parish Relations – Tina Heitkamp – Noah Stemen, custodian evaluation is being worked on. Next meeting is February 14, 2019.

HSP – Loren Shindeldecker – no report.

Audio – Mike Pedroza – All is going good.

Computer Systems – Casey Nuttle and John Butler – all is going good.

Video – Tom Ransbottom - no report.

Video Ministries – Barb Pedroza – all is going great.

Worship – Paula Linn – Kevin Browning will be preaching both ser-

vices on January 20. Terrence Talley from Stand for Truth; Worship Committee rescheduled for February 5. (ed. note – Worship Committee has been rescheduled to March 12 to avoid conflict with Building Team meeting on February 5) In case of bad weather on Sunday, a phone tree message will be sent.

Christian Education Team – Nathan Rupp – nothing to report.

Missions – Karen Nuttle – nothing to report.

UM Women – Ann Hileman - Purchased items for Veterans are to be returned to church on January 27, 2019. First meeting of the year will be held in March.

Kids Club – Nathan Rupp - all is going great. I am looking for someone to help lead crafts for the 4-5 grade levels for the next 2 months as Tom will be gone to work on other projects. Any suggestions, please let Nathan know. A big thank you to Kevin for driving bus when Casey is unavailable.

Jr. High/Sr. High Youth – Nathan Rupp – Lakeside will be for one week June 22-29. Nathan is helping with Youth for Christ basketball (KBA). Parkway has a team and 8 high school boys will be playing. Games will be on Sundays. Community Super Bowl Party will be held on February 3 at New Horizons so will be needing food items for the party. Plans are being made to go to Winter Jam in March.

Scouting/Camping – Steve Fisher – Scout Sunday is February 10.

Camping – Deb Call – nothing to report.

Memorial – Steve Fisher – nothing new to report.

Outreach Committee – Christmas Day Dinner was huge success. Thanks to all who helped in any way!

Building Team – Kara Ransbottom – working on floor plans. Will meet again February 5.

Small Group Coordinator – Kevin Browning – nothing until spring/summer.

Director of Print Communications –

Tina Waltmire – nothing to report.

Finance – Tammy McDonough – working on year-end report.

Trustees – Mike Pedroza – Had Todd Henkle attend the meeting and go over insurance on the church and parsonage. Need to update the video of the church and parsonage to make sure everything is properly covered. The front porch of parsonage is cracked. KLS Construction has been contacted and they will put that on their list for spring. The garage door at the parsonage has been fixed by Denny's Door. The next meeting is February 12.

Security Team – nothing to report.

Kevin Browning said the Wrestling Team made a \$200 donation to the FOUR10 team.

Pastor Chip – Nathan is attending the Stray Concert at school. Valentine's Dinner is February 9.

Tickets are available in the church office.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Browning closed with prayer.

Those attending – Kevin Browning, Steve Fisher, Kara Ransbottom, Tammy McDonough, Machell Price, Misty Bolenbaugh, Mike Pedroza and Joan Fox.

Notes from Nathan



Kids Club has been going well but will be nice to get back in the swing of things with a normal week as the weather has not been cooperating. We have

missed two Wednesdays so we hope that they kids are excited to come back and get in the swing of things again.

We are having the kids decorate and send Valentine's Day cards for the veterans that Sandy Ulrey started.

We do have a need for a person to lead crafts for the older group which is about 6 kids starting in March as Tom Ransbottom will be working on other projects. If you are interested please let me know. Tom and Bob Haver have done a great job with them and I have greatly appreciated their help with that group.

Thank you to all who have helped by donating time or items for Kids Club!

Zephaniah 3:17

If we are to accept the teaching of Jesus at all, then the only test of the reality of a man's religion is his attitude to his fellow men. The only possible proof that a man loves God is the demonstrated fact that he loves his fellow men.

-William Barclay

February's Church Library Book of the Month is "**How To Act Like A Grownup**". It is a short book, written in simple language for young people about to enter their parents' world on their own. (Some of us adults could use a refresher course, too.) You will be on your own for the first time very suddenly; nobody (except the law) can tell you what to do. You don't have to do what your parents tell you anymore. The independence is exciting but it's full of traps. You can make a serious error that can stay with you for life. The subjects covered in the book are not in the order of their importance. We all make mistakes anyway and there will be some, but hopefully none of lasting importance. Sometimes, we have to learn the hard way. Your parents did. Read this book so you will live a better life with fewer mistakes.

Youth

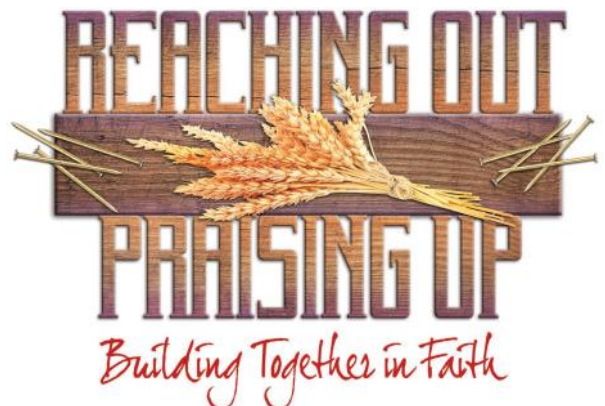
Youth group has been going well as we just had our community Super Bowl party. There were well over 70 people there. We had Jordan Thompson give a message which was really good for the kids to hear. It was a lot of fun and we gave out a lot of prizes. Thank you to all who donated food for the party. They all appreciated it.

Some upcoming things with the youth will be our Valentines/dating series, Winter Jam concert, and our 30 Hour Famine experience.

You can be praying for the youth as they experience some or all of these events that they draw closer to God.

Also we are excited as we will have a few new youth to attend Lakeside this year! Thank you for all your support of the youth program!

Proverbs 4:23





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8:30 am TRADITIONS Worship and Praise
Education Classes for all ages—9:30 am
10:30 am ENGAGE Worship and Praise

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To build community by knowing Christ, growing in Christ and going out to share Christ

Join us in prayer for:



West Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church

General Conference 2019

Special Session

February 23-26, 2019 St. Louis, MO