



**Bethany**

United Methodist

NEWSLETTER

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **PASTORS' REFLECTION**

In July's Newsletter I shared an update on the work of the Commission on the Way Forward. This commission was formed out of a request made at the 2016 General Conference and was tasked with finding a way for the church to deal the issues surrounding human sexuality.

This month I again wanted to share an update on this work. Since I wrote the July article the official report of the Commission was made public. It was scheduled to be release at the beginning of July but was delayed until July 30 because of delays in the translation. The Commission report details the work of the Commission and outlines the three plans in detail including proposed changes to the Book of Discipline. (The report can be viewed at <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/way-forward-report-released-in-all-four-official-languages-of-general-confe> , or speak to me for a hard copy)

At this point, the bottom line is that no decisions have been made. Everything is still in the form of proposals. The Council of Bishops has recommended the adoption of the One Church Plan, but multiple plans will be presented to the delegates at General Conference 2019.

Please continue to pray for this process. We are in a holding pattern now as we await General Conference. Various groups have begun to advocate for this or that. Lines are being drawn, camps set up. At some level this can seem so remote from us as a church, but it will have effects on us in the long run. Pray for wisdom, for an understanding mind, for those that will be involved in the decision making process

### **September Worship**

Join us during the month of September as we study the book of James.

Sunday September 2, 2018- James 1:17-27 (Lilly Straight Special Music)

Sunday September 9, 2018- James 2:1-17

Sunday September 16, 2018- James 3:1-12 (Sunbeam Choir)

Sunday September 23, 2018- James 3:13-4:3,7-8

Sunday September 30, 2018- James 5:13-20

### **Bishop's Day on the District**

Thursday September 27 @ Ruhl's UMC in Manheim.

Light Refreshments starting @ 6:30 with meeting beginning @ 7pm.

Please see Pastor Jared to register.

### **SUNBEAM CHOIR**

Don't forget the Sunbeam Choir begins Wednesday September 5. Practice runs from 4:30-5 every Wednesday (September thru May). The choir performs on the third Sunday of each month. Questions? See Samantha Patrick.

### **FALL BIBLE STUDY**

Starting in October we will be holding a Bible Study exploring "*Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*" by Adam Hamilton.

From the Publisher:

"Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience deep divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn't about the particular social issue, but instead, it is about the "authority of the Bible." Addressing the key questions and hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, Hamilton organizes the book according to the concerns that matter most:

- What is the Bible?
- The Bible, Science, and History
- The Bible and the Violence of God
- The Bible and Changing Social Values
- The Bible's Power and Authority Today"

Join us Thursdays @ 7 pm starting October 4 for this six-week study. Books will be available on the welcome table for those interested. See Pastor Jared with questions.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Caring Cupboard Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>. All donations of toiletries and non-perishables are greatly appreciated.

Sunday September 9 we are having a Bakeless Bake Sale. All the money collected will go towards new front doors for our church.

Ad Council meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

September is here and it is time for our sub and pretzel sandwiches sales to start again. Have a no cook day and enjoy delicious sandwiches from RK Subs with all proceeds going toward new front doors for our church.

Orders are due Wednesday September 19  
Pickup is Thursday September 27, 10:30 - 11:30AM.

### **LOYAL WORKERS**

Loyal Workers will be meeting, Monday, September 17 @ 7:00 PM. Everyone is invited to help plan our Holiday Bazaar. Please help us make this the best one ever.

Before you know it, October will be here and it will be time for Trick or Treat Night. Please help us collect treats for our goodie bags. Small bottles of water would also be appreciated. A basket will be in the over flow room for all contributions. Thank you.

### **This is HELEN LUTZ keeping in touch.**

I was overwhelmed by all the birthday cards. (15) Starting with the one from the church with all those signatures. All the well wishes, words of encouragement, the humor, the musical one that made me laugh and the one that said admitting your real age. Let me explain. My four daughters and I went out to eat that Sunday. After ordering a long island iced tea, I said, well today I'm 84. Judy, one of the twins said, no you are not 84. Jackie and I are 20 years younger than you and we will be 63 in August. You are 83. So I'm celebrating my 2<sup>nd</sup> year as 83.

I, also, appreciate the homebound cards. I had cataract surgery last month and currently receiving treatment from a dermatologist for skin cancer on my face. My excuse for not coming to church is because it is a chore getting dressed and my girls won't let me come in my nightie.

### **FLOWER CHART**

Anyone interested in sponsoring Alter Flowers, we have openings on Sept. 2, 9, 16, and 23. Sign the flower chart that is on the Railroad St. side of the church or call the church office Tuesdays

or Thursdays from 9-11AM - 717 838-9041

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Larry & Joan Strait, Tom Gussler and Tim Laraia

**Scripture Readers:**

SEPTEMBER 2: Pastor Stoltzfus  
SEPTEMBER 9: Pastor Stoltzfus  
SEPTEMBER 16: Pastor Stoltzfus  
SEPTEMBER 23: Pastor Stoltzfus  
SEPTEMBER 30: Pastor Stoltzfus

**Sound System Operators:**

SEPTEMBER 2: Barry Smith  
SEPTEMBER 9: Dick Lasher  
SEPTEMBER 16: Don Brubaker  
SEPTEMBER 23: Seth Schell  
SEPTEMBER 30: Barry Smith

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



September 1 – Betty Gussler

1- Elsa Patrick

2 – Lucille Peiffer

2 – Cade Barnhouse

5 – Wanda Watts

7 – Jared Stoltzfus

7 – Allison Deimler

9 – Karen White

14 – Thomas Gussler

15 – Daniel Gilb

23 - David Brandt

26 – Barry Smith

27 – Dylan Schell

28- Andrew Reigle



