



We have just entered the Advent season. Advent means “arrival” and constitutes the 4-week time period leading up to Christmas. The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. The Christ’s candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus. Christmas is coming. We are all expectant about meeting baby Jesus. I invite you all to look ahead to Christmas and to open your hearts to what Jesus brings to you. Let us prepare our hearts to welcome our king who comes to us as a sign of God’s great love for each and every one of us.

I am sure that you have prayed for the Special General Conference which will be held on Feb 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. I ask you to join in prayer every day from 2:23-2:26; praying for God’s vision for the United Methodist Church, for UM local churches, for the Special General Session on Feb 23-26, and for the 885 voting delegates. You are already aware that the Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and

strengthen the unity of the church. Here is a brief summary of the report of Commission on a Way Forward to the General Conference.

Traditionalist, Contextual and Progressive Values Traditionalists value marriage between one man and one woman, and sexual activity within this relationship. Traditionalists also seek greater accountability at every level of the church. Contextualists want to translate the gospel into the varied settings in which God places us. They see this as a missiological calling and believe that the work of the church can be adapted in a global church. Progressives value full inclusion of all persons in the life of the church, at every level, and this includes the LGBTQ community. They also believe that the church can celebrate same-gender marriages. Here are three plans developed by the Commission on a Way Forward.

### 1. THE ONE CHURCH PLAN

The One Church Plan provides a generous unity that gives conferences, churches, and pastors the flexibility to uniquely reach their missional context without disbanding the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church. In the One Church Plan, no annual conferences, bishops, congregations, or pastors are compelled to act contrary to their convictions. The plan maintains the leadership structure of The United Methodist Church, including the Council of Bishops, the General Conference, and the annual conferences as one body and one church. It offers greater freedom to many who desire change but do not want to violate The Book of Discipline. Voting is kept to a minimum except where it is helpful. There is no mandate that requires local churches, conferences, or pastors to participate in a vote that divides, segments, or separates. The United Methodist Church remains in connection, upholding unity of mission without uniformity of practice. The plan grants space for traditionalists to continue to offer ministry as they have in the past; space for progressives to exercise freely a more complete ministry with LGBTQ persons; and space for all United Methodists to continue to coexist without disrupting their ministries. Additionally, this plan creates space for annual conferences in various part of the world to practice ministry

according to their national or regional contexts with the connectional autonomy of the adaptable portions of The Book of Discipline.

## 2. CONNECTIONAL CONFERENCE PLAN

The Connectional Conference Plan reflects a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services. This plan creates three values-based connectional conferences that have distinctive definitions of accountability, contextualization, and justice. Current central conferences have the choice of becoming their own connectional conference (up to five additional connectional conferences) or joining one of the three values-based connectional conferences. Five U.S. jurisdictions are replaced by three connectional conferences, each covering the whole country, based on theology including perspectives on LGBTQ ministry (progressive, unity, and traditional.) A redefined Council of Bishops focuses on ecumenical relationships and shared learning. Episcopal oversight, accountability, elections, assignments and funding occur within the College of Bishops of each connectional conference.

## 3. THE TRADITIONALIST PLAN

The Traditional model maintains our global United Methodist teaching on human sexuality while providing space for a new form of unity with those who cannot in good conscience uphold our discipline. This model maintains the current stance of the church regarding the definition of marriage and the ministry of and with LGBTQ persons. It flows from the presupposition that The United Methodist Church ought to have one unified moral stance on the issues of marriage and sexuality. This model continues to affirm that LGBTQ persons are welcome to attend worship services, participate in church programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows of membership become members of local churches.

At the same time, the Traditional Model acknowledges the deep conscientious objections on the part of some to the current stance and practices of the church. It accommodates those objections by fostering a gracious and respectful way for those persons who cannot live within the current boundaries of church practice to form or join self-governing bodies that allow them the freedom to follow their conscience and institute practices in keeping with their understanding of Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience.

You can find the full report of the Commission of a Way Forward to the General Conference at [inumc.org](http://inumc.org).

Blessings,  
Hyesook



*a message from* **BISHOP TRIMBLE**



## **A time to pray, preach, and denounce hatred**

Brothers and Sisters,

It is time for us to pray, preach, and denounce hatred.

97-year-old Rose Mallinger and ten others were shot and killed during Shabbat worship at the Tree of Life Jewish Synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Saturday morning, October 27, 2018.

Earlier last week, two black senior citizens were shot and killed at a grocery store in Louisville, Kentucky. Sadly, it is reported the gunman had attempted to enter a black church in search of African Americans to shoot.

Continuing on, fourteen pipe bombs were mailed to numerous persons, including two former U.S. Presidents, by

a man, who many could describe as filled with hatred and political animus, prompting him to define certain people, including postal workers, as deserving of potentially serious injury or death.

While the bombs did not explode, fear and hatred has exploded and continues to ripple. We see and experience it in rhetoric, and in subtle, and often, not so subtle ways.

*“Racial prejudice, anti-Semitism, or hatred of anyone with different beliefs has no place in the human mind or heart.” – Billy Graham*

Most United Methodists would say that they embrace a Judeo-Christian history, ethic, and identity.

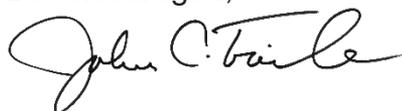
By this, I mean we read and embrace the Old and New Testaments, a respect of and belief in covenant with one God, our Creator. We believe in human dignity and that no people or religious group should be vilified or targeted for hatred and violence.

While some find it easy to identify others as opponents, enemies, or less than, this is not our way.

Jews, Christians, and Muslims all trace their religious roots to Abraham, and all of these groups are under threat of violence in different parts of the world.

*"My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love – so you can't know him if you don't love." – 1 John 4:7-8 (MSG)*

Be encouraged,



Bishop Julius C. Trimble





## BIRTHDAYS

5- Jane Mitchell

7- Dee Malavolta

7- Merrie Etta Stowers

9- Aspen Krintz

22- Jamie Bales

31- JoAnn Miller

## ANNIVERSARIES

8- George & Joan Fox

# Servants in Action

December 2018

	<b>Ramp Greeters</b>
12/02/18	Phil & Dee Malavolta
12/09/18	Elvis & Jane Mitchell
12/16/18	Rita Fultz
12/23/18	Morey Johnson
12/30/18	John Smith
	<b>Front Door Greeters</b>
12/02/18	Gail Scott
12/09/18	Diane & Wilson Seton
12/16/18	Lynn Grady
12/23/18	Shawn & Marcia Johnson
12/30/18	Trudy Bales

**December Ushers: Allen Jefferies, Elvis Mitchell, Larry Meyers, & Dick Brewer. (Jason Stowers to fill-in).**

## Children's Sermon

12/02/18	Trudy Bales
12/09/18	Christine Colbert
12/16/18	Morey Johnson
12/23/18	Pam Meyers
12/30/18	Jack Warne

I am among you as  
the one who serves

*Luke 22:27*

## ~ Brushwood Prayer Concerns ~



**Our Church:** The Indiana Conference, Bishop Trimble, The North West District, CS Lore Blinn Gibson, Assistant District Superintendent's Lamar Imes, Rob Seewald, and Hugh Rohrer.

**Our Nation:** Congress, President Trump, Governor Eric Holcomb, other officials. Those in position of authority.

**Our Military:** Amber Buster (Laney): Florida (Dee & Phil Malavolta), Douglas Siedelmann: Army-Kuwait .

**Our Missionaries:** Wertzes – Tanzania, Evan and Lydia Smith with CRU Missions at IL University.

**In Ministry:** Wayne Williams, appointed to Mt Ayr UMC and Morocco First UMC. Hal & LuAnn Cohn appointed to Kewanna UMC. Chris Kosary, appointed to Raub UMC. Jodi Kosary appointed to Wolcott UMC.

**Our Shut-ins:** Bethel Britt, Mary Stowers, Sharon Patrick, & Mimi Baird.

**Those we lift in Prayer:** Dwight Williams, Mimi Baird, Jack Warne, Elsie DePew, and George & Joan Fox.

**Our 8:30am Worship Service:** Our Attendees – those returning to church, those seeking a church, those seeking God

# December Meetings

- **2<sup>nd</sup>- Church Council: After Sunday School**
- **5<sup>th</sup>- Sr. Saints: 11:30pm**
- **10<sup>th</sup>- UMW: 3pm**
- **11<sup>th</sup>- Trustees Meeting: 7pm**



# December Events

- 2<sup>nd</sup>- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent- Advent Spiritual Night 4pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Church is Reserved
- 9<sup>th</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent- Advent Spiritual Night 4pm
- 9<sup>th</sup>- Rensselaer Care Center 2:15pm
- 16<sup>th</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent- Advent Spiritual Night 4pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
- 24<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Eve Service 6pm
- 25<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Day

# *Announcements*

**December is Food Pantry Month!**

**Volunteers are needed:**

**Tuesdays: 10am-12pm**

**Thursdays: 1-3pm**

**Sign up is on Welcome Center**

\*If you have a local event that you like posted on the bulletin board or in the weekly church bulletin, please place it in the Secretary's mailbox or leave a voicemail at (219) 866-3933 with the date, time, location, and a brief description of the event\*

