

Mio United Methodist Church
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989-826-5598

Rev. Michelle Forsyth
989-826-5521 or 903-5264
July, 2020 Vol. 07.20

WELCOME POTLUCK
for
Rev. Michelle Forsyth
And
Her Family



Saturday, July 11th
5:00 pm

Mostaccioli w/ Garlic Bread Provided

Please bring a dish to pass of salad, side dish, or desert.

The tables will be set so we observe "social distancing." Please do not rearrange tables & chairs.

To Our Church Family

Rev. Michelle's first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 5th. We will be sharing her with Churchill United Methodist Church. Service will be at 9:30 am each Sunday. Please take time to greet her and get acquainted with her at the WELCOME POTLUCK.

Pastor's Page

I am sitting on my back deck looking out at the river as I am writing. There is a warm breeze. The sun is bright and beautiful. Needless to say, I am feeling incredibly blessed. For me, being immersed in God's creation parallels being in the sanctuary. God's creation speaks beauty and love into my heart and fills my soul with joy.

Granted, it's been tough experiencing joy the last few months. The coronavirus quarantine, riots and looting in the wake of George Floyd's death, and the media in general have squeezed the joy out of our lives. One of my favorite modern theologians, John Ortberg uses an illustration I refer to often when I think about joy being taken from us. In his Bible study *The Life You've Always Wanted*, he takes a bottle of Joy dish soap and squeezes it out until the bottle is empty.

Friends, life circumstances should not rob us of our joy. True joy comes from within. We experience joy when we can look inward and we are comfortable who we are in Christ. Joy is embracing what God has done for us and for what God is currently doing in us. Recognizing the Lord loves us and never leaves us on our own should give us a sense of peace, contentment, and joy.

And I think we all can agree that serving Christ gives us joy. Jesus came to show us that the greatest joy we receive is through service. We remember that Jesus came into this world not as king, but as a servant (Philippians 2). We experience joy when we serve the Lord with a joyful heart.

I am excited about embarking on a new journey with all of you. I am eagerly anticipating that Mio and Churchill will be shining stars in our communities as God enables us to do his work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). But, I cannot do it alone. Over two thousand years ago, Christ called the disciples to help him and he is still calling on us to be his servants.

Christ is asking us to look inward and be motivated by love to serve others expecting nothing in return and to establish relationships of authentic unity and solidarity. Friends, with a joyful heart, I am honored I have the privilege of serving Christ with you. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us. So, get ready friends, it may be a turbulent ride. Godspeed as we begin our new journey together!

Yours in Christ,
Michelle Forsyth

A Little Something about Our New Pastor

Michelle is happily married to her husband Bob, and they have two beautiful children together. Blaine, their son, is sixteen. He is a musician who loves to play jazz with his bari sax. Nyomi, their daughter, is 19 and will be graduating in May from Fenton High School. She will be attending Delta College in the fall.

Michelle enjoys spending time with her family, but she also enjoys spending time in nature. She is a naturalist at heart. She sees the woods as God's sanctuary. Michelle enjoys hiking, biking, swimming, kayaking, and just sitting still talking to God on the beach of Lake Huron.

She also enjoys being with people. Michelle is passionate about serving God's people. She finds it a sacred gift to be the hands and feet of Christ in her community. Michelle believes that to make the world a more loving godly place, a more transformed sacred space starts with the church. So, she is looking forward to doing ministry for the people in the community with all of you. And she can't wait to get started.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 24TH OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT DECEMBER. THAT DEADLINE WILL BE ANNOUNCED.



**July 4th
Independence Day**

The July 4th Parade is cancelled.

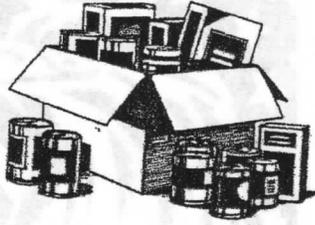
FROM THE TREASURER

Just a note on the financial status of the church. The General Fund (expense account) is holding at a decent balance at this time. That is due to your continued giving during the shutdown period. However, over the last couple of years the General Fund has been decreasing around \$5000.00 a year due to increasing expenses and our church family getting smaller in size. We are continuing to monitor and will bring any updates to the congregation when and if needed. Please know that your continued giving of your personal time (to help offset expenses) and monetary giving is greatly appreciated and needed to sustain our church.

Thank you, Everyone!!

Kris Vaughn, Treasurer

FOOD PANTRY



It's time to get started again on filling the Food Pantry. Sometimes it's just the basics that are needed like sugar, jelly, saltine crackers, canned soups, etc. Please do not bring "outdated" food items. It will all be taken to St. Bartholomew's for the Love INC ministry Food Pantry.

UMC SITUATION

In upcoming newsletters there will be series of articles with information on the situation of a split of the United Methodist Church now facing the members.

In order to be informed and educated about what is happening when the time comes to vote, please read each installment of this series. Members will be asked to vote before 2024 concerning the split that will happen in our denomination.

If you have questions after reading the articles, see Bob Hegel or Dave Gordon.

ALL SAINTS ORNAMENTS

2019 was the last year for use of all the ornaments purchased over several years. We will be doing something different in the future, so the ornaments have been sorted by families and are available for you to take the ones that are remembrances of your family and/or friends.

If there are some that you can deliver to someone not here, please help by giving them to those people.

DIRECT \$\$\$\$\$\$

Another milestone has been reached. The thermometer for Direct \$\$\$ is now at \$82,000.00 and heading for \$150,000. Great work everyone. Keep those complete Family Fare receipts coming!



The coming division in the United Methodist Church-

A series of articles to answer questions many people have.

Part 1. History

The UMC was formed in 1968 by a merger between “The Methodist Church” and the “Evangelical United Brethren Church”. At its formation, the membership was about 11 million, virtually all in the US. Since 1968, US membership has steadily declined and stands today at about 7 million. Meanwhile, the UMC began a strong global evangelization effort so that by 2020, there are about 5.5 million members outside the US, for a total membership of about 12.5 million.

Over this period, the US membership has become more polarized over scriptural understanding. The progressive viewpoint increasingly focused on social justice issues and “inclusiveness” at the expense of Biblical teachings. Some would say the effort followed secular trends of increasingly liberal social norms.

Meanwhile, the more traditional members continued Biblical interpretations and social norms they considered true to 2000 years of Christianity. They do not see the most recent 40 years of social revolution as any basis for rejecting historical Biblical teachings.

Most surveys and informed opinions show the 7 million US members divided somewhere between 60-40 and 40-60 around these points of view. There are many shades of gray and lots of people who would rather not have to explicitly decide.

For a number of reasons, the leadership of the US conferences has become predominantly progressive. In particular, the US Bishops are considered at least 75% progressive. The process for Bishop selection, as well as the process for accountability for doctrinal disobedience does not permit a majority of lay members a way to reverse this liberal trend in leadership.

On a world basis, the majority of UMC laity are decisively traditional in their views of Biblical teachings, since most lay members outside the US live in very traditional cultural settings. Thus, we have a worldwide majority traditional membership led by unremovable progressive Bishops.

The real turning point in the last few years has been a change in tactics by progressive lay members, Pastors, and Bishops. Unable to change the rules that govern key social principles, many progressive Pastors, Bishops and lay members have engaged in deliberate disobedience to several doctrinal principles. This unaccountable disobedience has led to a broken and dysfunctional organization.

The most recent big step to solve this broken organization’s dilemma is a broad consensus that a peaceful separation must take place. The present rules for separation do not have a fair process.

The leaders of this consensus plan come from all sides of the divide. Thanks be to God that such a reconciliation through separation has become very likely.

This separation plan is called “A Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation”. Copies of this agreement are available on many UMC, WCA, Good News and other websites. Paper copies are on the fellowship hall table.

Because of Covid-19 concerns, the vote to implement this separation is delayed until September 2021, rather than the much anticipated May 2020 GC which was cancelled.

Next month: More details of the Progressive and Traditional viewpoints.

Missions Report:

You may recall that back in December 2019, at the time of our Mission's budget distribution, the mission's committee reported on our giving to local ministries and to those in the USA. In those instances we could send directly to the mission without having to pass the money through the UMC Conference. However, direct giving was difficult when it came to those missions we support that are outside the USA. The Wesleyan Covenant Association had established a matching fund program to encourage giving to the Central Conference. The term Central Conference refers to all those countries which the UMC supports in Africa, the Philippines and Russia. By sending our, out of country, mission support money to the WCA earmarked for the Central Conference we were able to continue our support of the African ministries at double our giving. Below is their report on how they are using the funds like we as WCA members sent to them. Please contact me if you would like the details of this giving as the entire article was too large for the Newsletter but I could forward it to you. Susan Hegel



Many progressive-liberal United Methodists in the US have opted to punish African United Methodists by withholding their apportionments. In response the WCA has actively sought to replace these funds with donations from its membership. Here's an exciting report on the results of this campaign.

Central Conference Ministry Fund Keeps Vital Projects Moving Forward

Over the past eight months the Wesleyan Covenant Association has made ministry grants totaling \$205,687 to 11 projects in Africa and Russia. The grants were disbursed from the association's Central Conference Ministry Fund, a fund established in the aftermath of the 2019 special General Conference. Some U.S. annual conferences and local churches withdrew support for some ministries due to disagreements over The United Methodist Church's adoption of the Traditional Plan. Seeded by a \$100,000 WCA grant, the fund has attracted an additional \$235,000 in gifts from WCA members and friends to date. Additional grants totaling at least \$100,000 will be made in November 2020.

Grants have been made to ministries in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Russia, and Zimbabwe, and have funded a wide variety of projects, including theological education, construction of churches, schools, and health clinics, provision for clean water, and revitalization of hospitals.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

3 - Joan Trim
16 - Dorothy McGlynn
21 - Ellen Peters

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

13 - John & Gloria Phillips
14 - Gary & Becky Sidebottom
17 - Gar & Colleen Keith
25 - Will & Nita Olsen
29 - Dennis & Barb Kann
30 - Larry & Shar Lee

PRAYER CONCERNS

Ted Bruckland
Mike Butler
Janet Deyarmond
JoAnn Dudek
Dawn Hall
Janet Kann
Terry Kann
Bill McGlynn
Sue McLane
Gregg Miller
Erich Overhardt
Lois Phillips
Rafiki children
Ed Smith
Jeff Thoms
Andrea Walz
Vi Ward
Diane Winstead
Family of Jerry "Jed" Hager

SHUT-INS

At The Brook - Grayling
Marge Bryant

MILITARY

All Military Personnel

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer Concerns will be printed in the bulletin, monthly list, or newsletter list if it is written on one of the slips in the Ritual of Friendship Pads or called to Barb Butler, 390-6617, during the week for the Prayer Chain. This will insure accurate spelling.

Please help us get back on track and give names on current active military and others who have not been included here so they can go back on the Prayer Concerns list. Thanks. Marlene

CALENDAR

Until we are back to regular activities, dates and times of meetings and events will be printed here.

July 5th - After worship: Trustees
11th - 5:00 pm: Welcome Potluck
15th - 1:00 pm: Prayer Bears at Nancy Crane's.
27th - 6:00 pm: UMW

THANK YOU

Thank you to those who filled the pulpit during the changeover of ministers. It is great to have volunteers who have this talent and share it with us.

When praying don't give God instructions just report to duty.

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Phone Number 989-826-5598

Visit our Web Site at:

www.MioMethodist.org

Also check us out on Facebook

E-mail Address: MioMethodist@gmail.com

Mio United Methodist Church Mission Statement

As believers in God, thankful for the Father's faithful provision,
The Son's loving sacrifice for our sins, and the Holy Spirit's
Enabling presence in our lives we strive to:

- Worship, serve, and obey God
- Grow closer to God
- Teach the Bible
- Share God's love with others
- Be a community of fellowship and encouragement...

So that all may hear and receive the forgiveness and friendship of God.