



Otterbein Outreach

May, 2019

Centrists, progressives discuss UMC's future *Some Eastern PA members endorse new statement*

Unhappy with the results of General Conference 2019, about 600 centrist and progressive United Methodists from across the United States will meet May 20-22 at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (COR) in Leawood, Kansas. The question being asked: What should become of The United Methodist Church?

Ten nominated representatives from each of the 54 U.S. annual conferences will be invited, as well as active U.S. bishops and top executives of church agencies.

The meeting will evolve from two earlier ones that occurred recently in Dallas, Texas, and Atlanta, Ga.

The Rev. Adam Hamilton, COR pastor, is shepherding the dialogues, along with host bishops and others. Among many progressives and traditionalists, he sees ample room in the center for compromise among those who are "compatibilists," which he finds in greater numbers than non-compromising "incompatibilists" at the margins.

"Our hope is for a diverse group of leaders who will help shape Methodism's future, and who will be a part of the organizing team in their annual conferences, seeking to build support for the next United Methodism," said Hamilton.

The convening team is hoping for a diverse gathering of lay and clergy (diverse in terms of age, ethnicity, and inclusive of LGBTQ persons) who were in support of the One Church or Simple Plans and who are people able to organize, influence and motivate those in their own annual conference.

Nominees will be notified by April 26 if they are chosen from their annual conferences. Participants must cover their own travel expenses, lodging, and food. A nominal registration fee will cover meals and snacks. The meeting will begin Monday afternoon, May 20 and conclude by lunch on Wednesday, May 22.

Learn more about his insights from an article on Hamilton's blog, "What's Next for The United Methodist Church?" Also, read the UM News Service story.

Meanwhile, supporting a more progressive direction for the denomination, some are endorsing a statement circulated in the Eastern PA Conference over the past few



Inside this issue:

Announcements	3
Worship Help	5
Prayer List	7
Birthdays	7
South District	8
Bible Quiz and Christian Sym-	9
Puzzle Page	10
Calendar	11

Unity

"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

- Col. 3:14 ESV

weeks.

“The vote at the 2019 United Methodist General Conference Special Session held in St. Louis caused great harm and spiritual violence to the LGBTQIA+ community,” reads the Statement from Clergy and Laity of Eastern Penn Conference regarding the outcome of GC2019.



“We... grieve this hurt and, with other United Methodists across the connection lament this harm done. We reject the outcome of that Special Session vote and pledge to continue to affirm the lives, ministries, and families of our LGBTQIA+ siblings.”

More than 130 lay and clergy advocates have signed the statement so far, according to the Rev. Lydia Munoz, a General Conference delegate who helped launch the effort. They pledge to “continue to resist against all forms of evil, oppression and systemic discrimination in whatever forms they present themselves as declared in our baptismal covenant and to continue to educate, raise

awareness of intersectional oppression as they manifest themselves among the communities we serve and to continue to love and serve all people in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Much of the statement’s wording was provided by the New York Annual Conference’s progressive General Conference delegation. It goes on to state:

We, the Clergy and Laity of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference agree with John Wesley that “though we do not all think alike may we all strive to love alike” striving “to do no harm, and do all the good we can.”

We, clergy and laity of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference believe...

Love is love

All persons are of sacred worth

Black Lives Matter

Climate Change is real

Water is life and connected to all living things.

No human being is illegal

All genders identities are whole, holy, and in the image of God

Women’s rights are human rights

All abilities are expressions of the Divine

Colonialism is white supremacy in action

Racism in all its forms is incompatible with the teachings of Jesus

To devalue one person is to devalue all people

We affirm the truth as written by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

“We are working towards God’s justice,” it concludes. “We will only get there if we work towards it together.”





What's Happening

Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 2*
- Mother's Day, *May 12*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 18*
- Memorial Day, *May 27*
- Ascension, *May 30*

May 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays at 6:30pm

May 2

May 16

Administrative
COUNCIL

MEETING

Monday, May 6 at 7:00pm



May 19 UMW at 11:15am

Mission Closet Yard Sale

May 11 from 8:00am to 3:00pm

Rain or Shine



If you are in need of assistance of any kind, please contact one of the church members listed below. Be assured that your church family will support you in every way possible.

Pastor Deborah Gildart-Hanks

(C) 484-356-4888 (H) 610-518-0231

Email: pastor@otterbeinchurch.net

Lay Leader & Christ Servant Minister: Dianne Maylen 610-983-0113

SPRC Chairman: Betsy Ettinger (H) 610-933-6371

(C) 484-802-0843

Church Secretary: Mona Knauer 484-880-9001

Church Office: 610-933-8690

Church Email address: otterbeinumchurch@verizon.net

Church Website: otterbeinchurch.net



A life of praise

Despite becoming an invalid while in her teens, an 18th-century English poet who used the pen name Anna Steele wrote prolifically — often about praising God. The closing stanza of “Now I Resolve With All My Heart,” one of Steele’s 144 hymns, is a timeless prayer that’s fitting for the start of each new day.

O may I never faint nor
tire,
Nor wandering leave his
sacred ways;
Great God, accept my
soul’s desire,
And give me strength to
live thy praise.



Echoes of Easter

The Resurrection wasn’t a “one-off”; it was a spark that lit a flame that continues burning even today, especially where people minister in the Risen One’s name. One such outreach, Camp Noah, serves children traumatized by disaster. Nationwide, volunteers offer week-long experiences of kindness, love, listening and safety to kids who’ve recently survived a tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire or shooting. Kids often open up for the first time to share

their “storm stories” and begin a journey of healing.

Leaders at Camp Noah attest to God’s power to bring joy out of sorrow, trust out of fear and life out of death. A boy who initially was aloof dances with another camper at the closing worship; kids who arrived with uncertain expressions leave with smiles and regained confidence. Mental health counselors are part of camp teams, and referrals are

made to continue care afterward.

Resurrection often happens in steps, not overnight. But wherever “ordinary” daily ministry takes place in Christ’s name, extraordinary echoes of the first Easter are evident.

—Heidi Mann

Healing hospitality

Repeated headlines about violence can make us “feel like locking our doors and never entering society again,” writes pastor and author Max Lucado. After another mass shooting, he penned an online opinion piece that urged people to do the exact opposite by opening their doors, their hearts and their circles.

“It’s no accident

that *hospitality* and *hospital* come from the same Latin word,” Lucado writes, “for they both lead to the same result: healing. When you open your door to someone, you are sending this message: ‘You matter.’”

Because daily life is filled with rejections, extending an invitation — even to a simple meal — can be life-altering, Lucado con-

tends. What you think is a messy house might be a sanctuary to someone else, “and to those who eat alone every night, pork and beans on paper plates tastes like filet mignon.” Our kitchen tables are “God’s secret weapons in the war on fear,” Lucado says. “We never know what one meal will do.”



Worship Helpers

Greeters

5th - Mona Knauer
 12th - Bill and Joey Epprecht
 19th - Paul and Dianne Fisher
 26th - Wayne Wadsworth

Counters

5th - Bill Epprecht, Carol Butterfield & Joey Epprecht
 12th - Bill Epprecht, Carol Butterfield & Joey Epprecht
 19th - Betsy Ettinger and Kay Kunsch
 26th - Betsy Ettinger and Kay Kunsch

To Call for Greeters

Months	Responsible for List
January & February	Vernon Readman
March & April	Kay Kunsch
May & June	Vacant-See Mona if you would help
July & August	Nancy Kukucka
September & October	Lloyd Knauer
November & December	Bill Epprecht

Reader

5th - Mel Hoffman
 12th - Lloyd Knauer
 19th - Mila Lambert
 26th - Bill Epprecht

Altar Flowers In Memory of...

5th - Dorothy Hoffman, by Dianne Maylen
 12th - Our Loved Ones, the Kukucka Family
 19th - Dedicated for May Birthday, by Mila Lambert
 26th - Dedicated for May Birthday, by Mila Lambert

Sundays that are open for Altar Flowers

6/2/2019	8/4/2019	10/27/2019	12/1/2019
6/23/2019	8/11/2019	11/3/2019	12/15/2019
6/30/2019	9/1/2019	11/10/2019	12/22/2019
7/7/2019	9/8/2019	11/17/2019	12/29/2019
7/21/2019	9/22/2019	11/24/2019	

Cost for 2 arrangements is **\$30.00**

See Mona Knauer if you would like to put in altar flowers in memory or honor of someone.



The living Word

Many know of teacher Annie Sullivan helping young Helen Keller break through barriers of blindness and deafness to discover language: how Sullivan placed one of Helen's hands under running water, spelling *water* in sign language over and over into the other. In Keller's words: "Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of

something forgotten — a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew that w-a-t-e-r meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free."

God's living Word, working through the waters of baptism, also awakens us — to a life of faith anchored in God's unconditional love. Baptism revives in us a "misty consciousness" that we are safe in God and reveals "the mystery of language" that is prayer. In baptism, as water washes over our bodies, the living Word gives us light, hope, joy and true freedom.

Time-management tips

A general rule for the good use of time is to accustom oneself to live in a continual dependence on the Spirit of God, receiving from moment to moment whatever it pleases him to give us, referring to him at once in the doubts which we necessarily run into, turning to him in the weak-

ness into which goodness slips from exhaustion, calling on him and lifting oneself to him, when the heart, swept away by material things, sees itself led imperceptibly off the path and finds itself forgetting and drifting away from God. Happy the soul which ... never stops say-

ing to itself a hundred times a day, "Lord, what wouldst thou that I should do? Teach me to perform thy holy will, for thou art my God."

—François Fénelon

Joys of motherhood

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

—Unknown





- 2 Melina Pitts
 4 Lorene McCorkle
 7 Nichole Blank
 Kim Moore
 Ken Schum
 8 Kathy Rapp
 Bennett Kunsch
 9 Mila Lambert
 10 Darrell Maylen
 12 JoAnne O'Hara
 17 Linda Burns
 20 Isabella Whitman
 21 Sharon Blatt
 25 Robert Franklin
 26 Jonathan Dieter
 27 Joe Kukucka, Jr
 John Greene
 28 Beth Murray
 30 Carol Butterfield
 31 Francis Fletcher, Sr.

If I have missed your birthday last year, please let me know. I am trying to update the birthday list.
 Thanks
 Mona

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Pray List

Sharon Beard
 Tiffany, Michael and Tia Berkey
 Paul Bochnak
 Dave Boljonis
 Frank Cook
 Walt and Timi Cory
 Earl Gable
 Ida Guldin
 Loretta Hanks
 Robbie and Dave Harper
 Betty Jaworski
 Joe Kukucka
 Kay Kunsch
 Dolores Miller
 Joanne Neitzler
 Joanne O'Neal
 Marilyn Patzuk
 Maryjane Schum
 Ben Stippich
 Jennifer Summy
 Larry Trisch
 Cathleen Warner
 Donna Warner
 Elyce Wescott
 Bobby Watts and Stacy Ettinger
 Bob Wilt

Serving our Country

Scott Bowen
 US Army, Afghanistan
Ronnie Brandafino
Elizabeth Stippich, PAANG
TSGT Nicholas R Wilt

In Our Neighborhood

President Donald Trump
All Our Government Leaders
Pastor Deborah and family
For those in storms and floods

Victims of Shooting and bombings

The congregation of Otterbein UMC, Harrisburg, PA.
 Fire in the Sunday School wing. (home church of Allison Mendelsohn)



Beatrice (Bea) Collemacine

Pennsburg Manor
 530 Macoby Street
 Room 215B
 Pennsburg, PA 18073

Fran Erskine

Marilyn Patzuk

839 Hollow Road, RD #1
 Phoenixville, PA 19460

Janice Wood

625 Nutt Road
 Phoenixville, PA 19460





Eastern PA Conference and Local Church Events

Sunday, May 5 South District Conferences at Lima UMC

May 4: Yard Sale at Evansburg UMC

All proceeds from this sale fund our many mission projects—Daily Bread food pantry, Haws Ave. UMC soup kitchen, Code Blue, Salvation Army, Cradles to Crayons, pill bottle collection, Open Door Ministry, and more. your purchases benefit many of the less fortunate in our area.

Saturday, May 4th

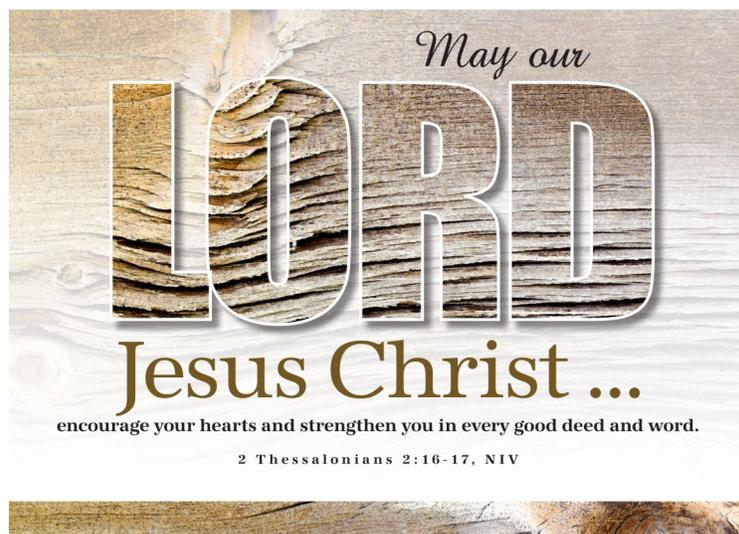
8 AM to 2 PM

Evansburg UMC

3871 Germantown Pike

Conference Save-the-Dates

- **May 4:** UMW Conference / Spiritual Life Retreat
- **May 5:** District Conferences at Lima UMC
- **June 1:** Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Ministry Workshop
- **June 13-15:** 2019 Annual Conference
- **July 19-20:** “Mission u” at The Inn at Reading
- **October 19:** UMW’s 46th Annual Celebration



“To the world you are a mother, but to your family you are the world.”
—Adapted from Dr. Seuss



Bible Quiz

In Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, to what two women is Boaz connected?

- A. Rahab and Ruth
- B. Tamar and Rahab
- C. Ruth and Bathsheba
- D. Bathsheba and Mary



Answer on page 10

Christian Symbol

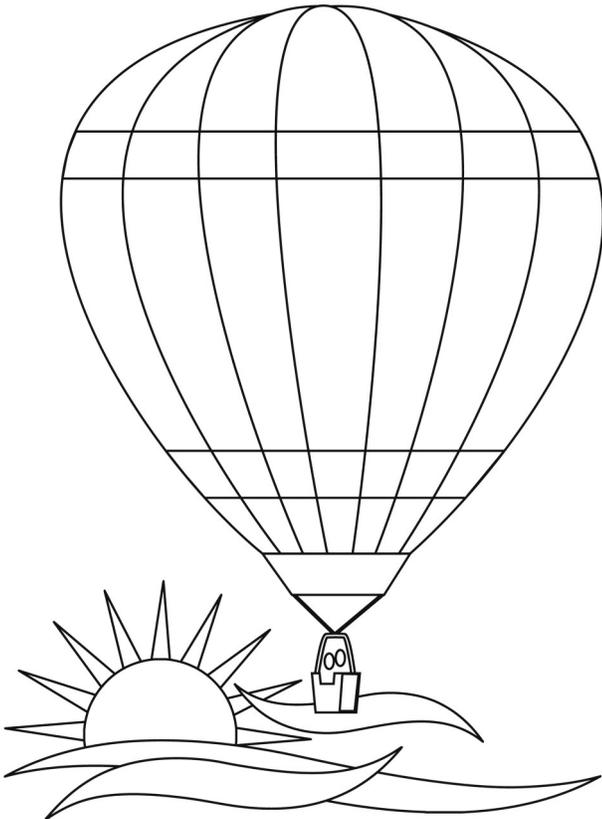
7-Pointed Star

This star represents Isaiah's list of the gifts of the Spirit to be revealed in the Branch of Jesse — that is, Christ: "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD — and he will delight in the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:2-3, NIV). Some baptism and confirmation liturgies pray for God to "stir up in" the newly baptized or confirmed "the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in [God's] presence."



COLORING PAGE

Print this 8.5" x 11" image to color.
A full-size PDF file is provided on the CD and online.





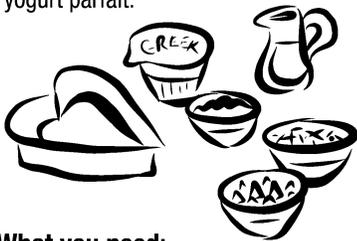
PUZZLE PAGE



HEART-SHAPED breakfast



Treat Mom with this yummy, beautiful yogurt parfait.



What you need:

- Large heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Greek yogurt (any flavor)
- Toppings (mini chocolate chips, granola, shredded coconut, chia seeds, oats, slivered almonds, blueberries, sliced strawberries, raspberries, bananas)
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup

What you do:

1. Place cookie cutter on a plate. Spoon in yogurt, spreading it to the edges of the cookie cutter.
2. Add toppings, making a nice design. Remove cookie cutter.
3. Drizzle syrup around the edge of the plate.
4. Serve to your mom on Mother's Day!



A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still _____ ;




she provides _____ for her _____




Her _____ rise _____ and




_____ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call

Answer: A (See Matthew 1:5.)



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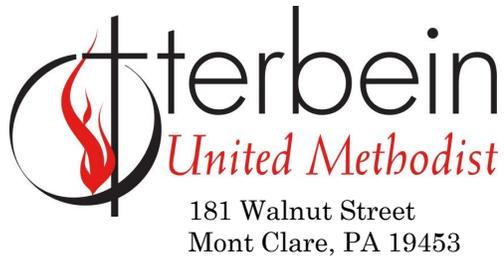
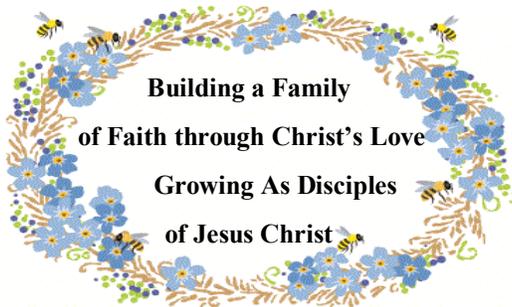
E-mail: otterbeinumchurch@verizon.net

Website: otterbeinchurch.net

Pastor Deborah Gildart-Hanks

Cell: 484-356-4888 Home: 610-518-0231

E-mail: pastor@otterbeinchurch.net



10:00am Worship

11:15am Sunday School

**First Sunday of each month is Communion
2nd and 4th Sundays 9:15am Praise and Prayer
3rd Sunday UMW at 11:15am**