



Every 4 years an equal number of United Methodist laity and clergy gather to discern how God is directing the United Methodist Church's mission and ministry in the world. This gathering, called General Conference, is comprised of elected delegates from conferences (regional groups of United Methodist Churches) around the globe. On April 23, 2024, the General Conference gathered in Charlotte, North Carolina to begin its work.

While it is beyond the scope of this article to share with you all there is to know about how the church is organized and connected, I do want to share with you some basic information about the task of General Conference and some of the work that is happening at this gathering.

Because we are a connectional denomination consisting of nearly 39,000 churches worldwide, the General Conference was established to be the top legislative body (akin to Congress) in the United Methodist Church. Their task, every four years, is to create/revise church polity (church law and organizational structure) and to speak on behalf of the denomination regarding the church's position on societal issues. The product of the General Conference's work in these two areas are printed and bound every four years in the United Methodist Book of Discipline (Church Polity) and the United Methodist Book of Resolutions (the church's official stand on issues).

By the time you receive this newsletter, General Conference will be coming to a conclusion. While the majority of the talk in the news about General Conference has focused on separation, disaffiliation, and full inclusion, there was equally important work done at this General Conference. Some of this work included discussion centering around: Regionalization (restructuring the denomination with the goal of allowing the U.S. churches (like Africa and European churches) to adapt and change the UM Book of Discipline as missional needs and differing legal contexts require), A Revised Social Principles (statements that address the church's stand on social issues like abortion, euthanasia, marriage, etc.), Engage in Acts of Repentance (General Conference will acknowledge the injustices it has participated in (whether directly or indirectly) and to seek reconciliation), Changes to Clergy Pension and Benefits Program, and Strengthening the Connectional tie with the Episcopalian Church. While the bulk of activity centers around decision-making, it is very important for you to know that the work of General Conference always flows from worship and prayer gatherings.

CONTINUED ...

It is from this center that delegates are open to hear the voice of God and one another during their time of "holy conferencing".

Sometime in May, after the conclusion of General Conference, I will lead an informational meeting to share with you the decisions of the conference, how these decisions impact our denomination and First United Methodist Church, and provide you with an opportunity to ask questions. Look for an announcement about that meeting in the bulletin soon.

Until then, please continue to pray for the General Conference and for God's continued work through the United Methodist Church.

God's Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Mike

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

Our young girl in Kenya, Africa is growing up!

We began supporting Ivy Mukoshi through (UMC) Living Hope HS about 7 years ago. She has almost finished her third year of college (@ Kisii University) and she is a delightful young lady. I correspond with her regularly (email), and we speak of many issues confronting ANY 20 year old college girl. School questions, money issues, future plans, health problems....even dating / boy concerns (difficult to discuss when polygamy in her society is the norm!!) What an interesting relationship between a 70 year old, middle class homeowner and a 21 year old college student in Africa whose home has dirt floors, and no running water or electricity.

It has been such a wonderful experience (and culture shock!) for all involved. **And she is SO grateful for our support...**

Ivy is getting ready to enter a new phase of her college education before she enters her Sr. year. It is what we commonly know as internship. This will involve living in Nairobi (a big city is a huge shock and worry for her) this summer.

In August or September, our Outreach team is planning a fundraiser for some of Ivy's coming expenses.

In our June newsletter, you will hear from Anita Burns about Ivy's experiences thru her HS years. And then Ivy will tell us about Living Hope HS.

In the July newsletter, I will share my time corresponding with Ivy as she enters her college years and, again, Ivy will share " her side of the story"....being a college student in Africa!

We hope you will take the time to read these articles in the coming newsletters.

This has been an FUMC endeavor since 2017. YOU all have made such a difference in the life of this African girl through your giving. Our hope is that you will get to know and love her as we (Anita and I) do through years of letters and emails. **What a wonderful example of our UM global connectionism!**

We, FUMC, have truly been "blessed to be a blessing" to Ivy....thank you!

Cheryl Moorhead

F.U.M.C NEWS

& Announcements



Second Sunday Family Fun

Due to illness we postponed our monthly Second Sunday event to the third Sunday, and it was well worth the wait. Friends gathered together in the fellowship hall and channeled their inner Earth child. Shelley Spellman planned a picnic style meal of Hot dogs and fresh fruit. Those of all ages in attendance rotated through stations of various activities including making edible dirt cups, planting seeds, tie dying t shirts and painting prayer rocks. The children enjoyed a story and music with Don, while the teens gathered in fellowship. Fun (and a little mess) was had by all! The next Second Sunday Family Fun Day will be June 9th.

SCAN
HERE!



Paper forms available
upon request

First United Methodist Church Directory Update

Please help us update our church directory. For new attendees AND for those who have been with us for years, we ask that everyone fill out a contact form.

HOW TO: Using your mobile phone camera scan the QR code to the left of this text. A link to the form will appear in your mobile search browser. A separate form will need to be filled out for each adult member of your family. *One* family member will be responsible for adding your children's information if applicable.

If you need help, please ask
Leah or Pastor Michael

Parking Lot Paving Project April 24-May 4

Mother's Day
May 12th

Pentecost Worship
May 19th

RCB BACCALAUREATE SERVICE
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TUESDAY MAY 21, 2024
7:00 P.M.



What is happening at our
..... **CHURCH**
this month

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP

Monastic Meal

A simple weekly meal, eaten in silence as inspirational literature is read aloud. Join us at 12:15 p.m. each Tuesday in the parlor. Meal donation is \$4.00. To learn more, contact Don Gardner.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every Thursday from 5 to 6, a group gathers in the groom's room to knit or crochet shawls for those who may need the loving embrace of the church. Contact Nancy Ferber or Cheryl Moorhead for information.

Feed My Sheep

3rd Mondays of each month
(May 20th) at 12:00 (noon)
This ministry welcomes to the table those who might be overlooked or rejected. Food donations are appreciated! Contact Anita Burns for more details.

First United Methodist Church Women's Luncheon

3rd Thursday of each month
12:00 (noon) in the parlor.
Please contact Shirley Murphy for more information 513-600-8469

MEETINGS

SPRC will meet **May 7** at 6 p.m.

Trustees will meet **May 14** at 6 p.m.

Finance will be announced soon

Outreach will be announced soon

Council will be announced soon

If you know of an upcoming meeting or event that you would like to have featured in next month's newsletters please email Leah at CFUMC@citynet.net or call the church office.



SAVE THE DATE!

July 10th, 11th & 12th

Where: First United Methodist Church

Age Groups: 3-5 yrs, 6-8 yrs, 9-12 yrs

Registration available soon!
Follow FUMC on Facebook to stay up to date
on VBS information!

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:4

connect with us



WWW.CFUMC.ORG



cfumc@citynet.net



Like us on Facebook:
First United Methodist
Church – Clarksburg



scan the QR Code with
your mobile phone for easy
access to our Facebook
and YouTube accounts




YouTube: First United
Methodist Church –
Clarksburg



Church Office Hours

Tuesday 9-1, Wednesday 9-1, Thursday 9-1

Dear Friends, 
 Thank you for your help selling Easter eggs and candy for us this year. Your support of our church and its ministries is greatly appreciated. People like you helped make this program a success.
 Blessings from Janet Shanholtz and the North View United Methodist Church



UNIFORM SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 26th, we invite you to wear your uniform or club t-shirt to church so that we may recognize those participating in extracurricular activities throughout the year.



Community Rewards



Scan the QR Code or go to www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards for step by step instructions. If you need assistance setting this up contact Leah Wray during office hours.



Children's Church every Sunday
 after children's moments during the 10:45 worship service

Infant Care Available



Newsletter Deadline for June is May 23rd - Please see Leah Wray

May Birthdays

Brett Floyd	5/02	Mike Cunningham	5/12	Meredith Seibert	5/24
Beth Skidmore	5/02	Clarice Jenkins	5/12	Brandon Kroll	5/25
Jane Lynn Squires	5/02	Suzanna Goodyear	5/13	Betsy Turner	5/25
Amy Reinhart	5/03	Gary Mills	5/13	Curt Diaz	5/27
Demetrius Seibert-Payne	5/04	Misty Tichenor	5/13	Shirley Murphy	5/27
Patrick Moore	5/06	Elizabeth W. Baker	5/15	Candy Atkinson	5/28
Rod Rogers	5/08	Eric Lewis	5/17	Mike Dyer	5/29
Katie Seybert	5/08	Ben Smith	5/17	Kelly Hazuka	5/29
Timothy Dyer	5/10	Kristin Fornash	5/18	Jason Williams	5/29
Tom Dyer	5/10	Lauran Kirk	5/18	Susan Wilmerink Hanby	5/29
Alexander Richards	5/10	Ben Davisson	5/19	Kim Caruso	5/30
Mary Demoss	5/11	Robert Williams	5/22		
Kolby Rice	5/11				

Because of your generous donations, we have enough food to fill the 170 bags needed for our weekend in May.

May 12th will be the final food bag assembly & delivery for the school year!



We are thankful for our community partners!



The Stonewood Lion's Club and the Golden Eagles 4-H Club gave generous support for the food backpack ministry that provides food bags to Nutterfort Elementary

Women of First Church

During the April luncheon gathering, June Jett of West Milford, an RN and Hospice Nurse blessed the group with her story and testimony from her mission work in Guatemala.

June shared with the group about the work to fund-raise and physically make the trip happen as well as the medical work that is being done through the Hands and Hearts for Christ Mission group.

Plan to join the next upcoming luncheon

– All are welcome!

May 16th, 2024 at Noon in the Parlor



First UMC will cover half of the registration fee for any of our youth & children who are interested in attending Spring Heights Church Camps.

Registration is open now! Call the church office for more information or visit www.springheights.org

“HOME AMONG THE HILLS”

The Madrigal Singers of Clarksburg

and guests

Maestri Vocale Bass



Monday, May 20th
7:00 P.M.

\$5.00 admission
Children 12
& younger are free



Graduation Recognition Sunday May 19, 2024

If you or a family member is graduating this year, please let us know!

You can email (cfumc@citynet.net) or call the church (304-623-3397).

We will need the graduate's name and a brief explanation of where they are graduating from and plans for the future

Contact the church office by May 12th.

2024
First United Methodist Baseball Team



HC Pony League



We would like to announce that Don Gardner has returned from retirement and will assume the role of Director of Music at First United Methodist Church.

As you all know, Don has worn many hats at F.U.M.C and music has often been one of them. We are excited that he has resumed and accepted this position and we know his talents and gifts will continue to bless our church!